lang="en">

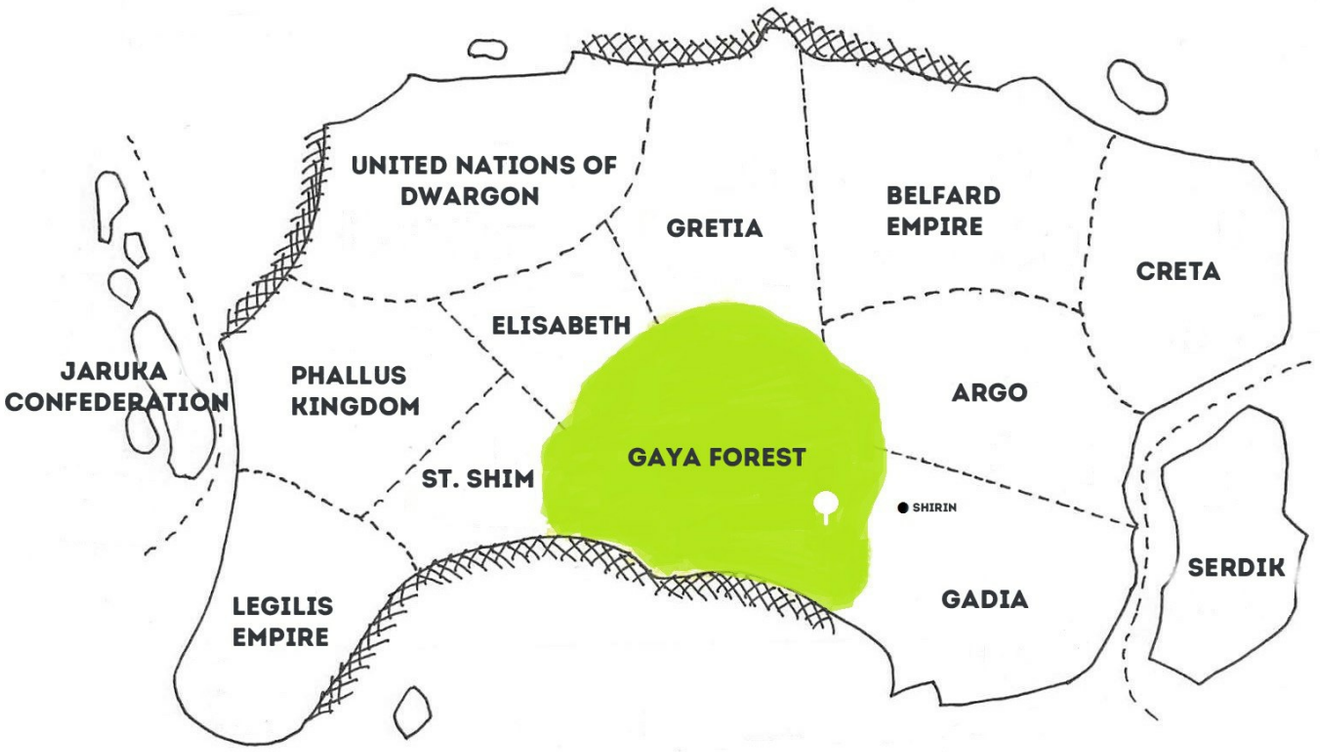
Isekai Yururi Kikou - Raising Children While Being an Adventure - WN Chapter 00-27

Table of Contents

1. Map of Aetherdia
2. Prologue
3. Chapter 1
4. Chapter 2
5. Chapter 3
6. Chapter 4
7. Chapter 5
8. Chapter 6 Part 1
9. Chapter 6 Part 2
10. Chapter 7
11. Chapter 8
12. Chapter 9
13. Chapter 10
14. Chapter 11
15. idle talk 1
16. Chapter 12
17. Chapter 13
18. Chapter 14
19. Chapter 15
20. Chapter 16
21. Chapter 17
22. Chapter 18
23. Chapter 19
24. Chapter 20
25. idle talk 2

26. Chapter 21
27. Chapter 22
28. Chapter 23
29. Chapter 24
30. Chapter 25
31. Chapter 26
32. Chapter 27
33. idle talk 3
34. idle talk 4

Map of Aetherdia


UNITED NATIONS OF DWARGON
GRETIA
BELFARD EMPIRE
CRETA
ELISABETH
JARUKA CONFEDERATION
PHALLUS KINGDOM
ARGO
GAYA FOREST
ST. SHIM
SHIRIN
SERDIK
LEGILIS EMPIRE
GADIA

Prologue

Tree, tree, tree…
Turning around 360 degrees, there are thick trees growing everywhere I look.
A lonely forest with no roads, my feet get covered in bushes with every step.
I can see a faint light through a gap of the branches so it's a daytime, but because of the crowded trees, the overall mood is gloomy.
Syl…… wasn't there a little better starting place?
Why here? There should have been many alternatives, right?

「Gururururu」

The person who I separated from a little while ago would probably permit me a complaint or two… While thinking so, I suddenly hear a beast's growl and look around in panic.
Certainly, a beast is running towards me——A Red Wolf.
Red Wolf is a red, large-breed dog-like wolf monster. If I'm not mistaken, it's a Rank C?
It has completely marked me as its prey.
I have no confidence because I'm improvising, but if I can't just stand here and let it attack me, so I point my hand like a pistol at the Red Wolf.

「《Air Shot》」

At the same time I shout, a lump of air shoots from my finger.
I fire a compressed air magic which resembles a bullet.
The air bullet hits the target, the Red Wolf『Gyain』whinnes and gets blown off backwards.
I feel relieved that I hit the target properly, but I'm still cautious in case it can still move.

「This is the beginning, huh……」

Haa… I sigh, approach the Red Wolf's dead body and store it with《Infinite Storage》.

[Previous Chapter] [TOC] []

Chapter 1

「I am terribly sorry!」

Who are you?
An unknown silver-haired youth is suddenly prostrating in front of me on the floor.
Around 20 years old…… I think he's younger than me.
Because he's facing the floor without flinching, I can't see his face.
I don't understand…… why? I think that he surely has a well-featured face.
The reason why he's prostrating in front of me is unknown.
Because I have woken up in this unknown place just a several minutes ago.

That's right.
Before I noticed, I already was in a room I don't recognize.
A room surrounded by white walls from every direction.
The size is around 8 tatami, I think…… There are two white doors. There are no windows.
There are two leathered-covered sofas for two people facing each other.
A jet-black glass table is in between the sofas. Nothing else is here aside from that.

Uun…… because of the white walls, this room seems like a "typical" president's office.
Maa, that does not matter, though.

Since I don't recognize this place, is this a kidnapping?
I thought so at first, but I'm not restricted and above all, I think that the kidnapper is quite a considerable person……
After wandering around the room aimlessly, I return my sight at the youth on the floor.
Un, he's still lowering his head.
Is that it? You won't do anything unless I say something thing?
I would already like the explanation.
Can't be helped, let's greet him first.

「Ah~ Umm, who are you and what do you want from me after bringing me here?」

When I spoke, the youth finally raised his head.
Un, as expected, he's a terrible handsome young man.
A green eyes together with silver hair. A tall figure with facial features that would put Hollywood stars to shame.
The clothes he is wearing are plain and white, but that makes him look rather attractive.
I can't find any faults.
This goes past envy, it may be worth of respect.

While I'm on such topic, he was also staring back at me who is impolitely observing him.
…… He's still sitting on the floor, though.
Because he was looking at me like that, I had to tell him『Wait』as I would command a dog……
This, am I the bad guy? Am I getting misunderstood? I'm not a bad person, though!
He has been apologizing since the beginning, so I shouldn't be at fault. Probably!

「…… How do you do? I'm Kayano Takumi」
「Thank you kindly for the politeness. My name is Sylphreel. Please, call my Syl」
「……」
「……」

Haa, he sighs and introduces himself while bowing.
He doesn't do anything aside from that.
He properly answered me. Yosh, I can go ahead like this! Is what I though, but——。

——The conversation didn't continue……

Why did it end with self-introductions?!
Where's the follow-up? An explanation, please!
The one who knows the circumstances is you, Syl!

「…… Ah~——Syl-san, who are you, where am I and why am I here?」
「No need for honorifics. ——From Takumi-san's standpoint, I'm a god. This

place is called a Holy sanctuary」
「…… Haa!?」

This youth is a god and this play is a sanctuary?
Is this a new scam?

「This is not a scam」
「!!」

Eh? Were my thoughts just read?

「No. Although I can read minds, I didn't read that before」
「Then, how do you know!?」
「Somehow, I thought you wouldn't believe so I intended to correct it」

Nonono! You have been like an abandoned puppy a while ago, why are you suddenly so calm?
It's strange no matter how much I think about it!?

But, I understand! I have understood that I will get only tired talking to this person in a serious manner!

「…… Can you explain simply?」
「Ah, I'm sorry. I have killed you by mistake」

Too simple!!

Chapter 2

『Ah, I'm sorry. I have killed you by mistake』

Unexpected murder report.
It seems I have been somehow murdered by this god……
When we move to the sofa and I hear Syl's explanation——

「Umm…… there appeared a "distortion" in a certain place, so I wanted to reinforce it, but I put too much power into it and it passed through. This "distortion" connected with a place where Takumi-san was at that time so… that… the great power passed through and directly hit Takumi-san…」

Haa————————……

I let out a lengthy sigh.
According to Syl's explanation, he didn't have any ill intent, but I died because of a trivial (?) power measurement error.
However, it doesn't seem like it ends here.
Under the influence of the power which directly hit my body, I have been already extinguished. He apparently narrowly pulled my soul into this sanctuary, but my soul still received a great shock and because of that it's not able to enter the circle of reincarnation again.
This seems to be the reason Syl was prostrating before me.

Uun…… Although I can't reincarnate again, normally, a person who died won't notice that he's reincarnated, right?
A person who remembers his previous life should be rare, right?
All my 28 years of life would get "deleted, right?
I don't know what happens after one dies naturally, but since I am able to hold a conversation like this, should I be delighted that my soul is safe?

「So, what is going happen to me from now on?」
「Eeeeh!?」

I judged that rather than worrying about death, what is going to happen to me from now on is more important so when I asked Syl made a strange face.

「Eh? Is there perhaps no after-sales service?」

Seriously!? Am I going to remain like this?
Will I remain a soul-like existence floating around?
Eh? Ghost? An unnatural existence?

「No, wrong! I have prepared for words of abuse, so Takumi-san's words just greatly surprised me」
「Ah~ Un. I have a feeling that words of abuse would be more suitable for Syl」
「……」

Although I should be angry, I don't have the recollection of actually dying.
Therefore, somehow, I don't have any will to get angry.
Besides, Syl has been keeping a low profile since the beginning so I have no motivation?
If that was his intention that would make me, on the contrary, angry, but I have figured in this short time that Syl doesn't know how to properly express himself.

「It's a lie. I half joked」
「Ha, half!?」
「Un. Half. It's true that you made a mistake in the measurement of power, reflect on it」
「…… Yes」

Un, I have figured out how to handle Syl.
Is it okay to handle a god with such attitude? Is what I thought, but since Syl doesn't seem to mind, it's alright I guess?

「I will leave depression for later. So, what is going happen to me?」
「Ah, yes. First, I will make Takumi-san a new body, then I will put your soul into it」
「A new body?」
「Yes. I will compose it for you with my power」

Syl is going to make it……
……
……
……
……

「…… I'm worried you will fail and create something strange, though」

I'm somewhat uneasy…… Syl, he looks like the clumsy type…
Physical limbs are missing! Is not what will probably happen, but… I'm worried about the things with normal functions……

「I won't! It's all right!! I will use all my power to create a proper one!!」
「I have a feeling that all your power is dangerous so stop it. Create it carefully…… and then」
「Yes, I will do my best! Unfortunately, because Takumi-san's new body will have my power dwelling inside, it won't be able to return back to Earth. Therefore, I will move you to a different world I manage——Aetherdia. Right, it would be called a different world for Takumi-san」

Aetherdia is the world with five gods.

God of Creation, Malianor
Fire God, Salamanteel
Water God, Windell
Wind God, Sylphreel
Earth God, Nomoodle

The God of Creation, Malianor-sama is the chief god. Syl and the others support Malianor-sama.
And it's apparently the well-known world of sword and magic.

「Fu~n. I have no physical ability, won't I easily die, though?」
「It's all right! I will make you a healthy body, after all! Also, I will give you skills!!」
「Skills, huh…」
「That's right! Skills!! Do you have something, in particular, you would like?」
「Let's see…… First, not knowing the language would be inconvential」

Language is important. Not having a mutual understanding spells trouble.

「Language and common knowledge are easy to insert to the body, don't worry about it. Also, I will attach an appraisal skill」
「That's good, I will leave it to you. Also, an item box! Do you have something like that?」

When it comes to a different world, it's an item box, right?

The difficulty will change depending on its existence.

「There are high capacity magic tools called Magic Bag, but I recommend a variety of space magic《Infinite Storage》which also stops the passage of time」
「Oh~ that's it! I would also want some self-defense magic or technique」
「I understand. If you don't have any specifications, I will choose for you, is that all right?」

Infinite Storage! Sounds nice. Stopping passage of time sounds attractive. Something to protect the body with is left!
Magic has lots of possibilities, huh… And it's not like I will be able to use a weapon……
I don't understand the varieties of magic, will it be okay to leave it to Syl? He's more or less a god, he will probably choose something suitable, right?

「I will leave it to you. Also, please don't throw me out penniless」
「I understand. It has been decided to use my attribute, wind magic for now then. I will insert the knowledge on using magic inside the body, okay! Also, I will put a necessary amount of money inside the《Infinite Storage》!」

Syl is the Wind God, after all. Speaking of wind magic, Wind Cutter, and Air Bullet are basic, right? Maa~ If he inserts the knowledge inside the body, will I be able to use magic reflexively? That will be helpful if that's the case.
Oh, moreover, not just money. What about an item! I want to ask.

「Are you ready? Takumi-san will have to sleep while I insert the soul inside the body, do you have something you want to ask before it's too late?」
「Un? Is this the last time we can talk?」
「Talking directly won't be possible for a while. If you pray towards my statue in a shrine, we should be able to converse」
「Is it all right to contact a god?」
「Yes. There won't be any problem. There might be a time when I'm busy and unable to answer, but it should be okay to contact me anytime」

Language is okay. Knowledge is good. Essential skills and items are prepared. Is it all right?

「I can't think of anything right now, I will rely on the shrine if I have something」

「Yes. I will be waiting for you. I have caused you trouble. The next time you wake up, you will be in that world. Please, enjoy you new life without a fail」

I nod to Syl and my consciousness fades away.
Ah, I forgot to tell Syl to emphasize the work on my appearances.

[] [TOC] []

Chapter 3

——And I return to the beginning.

「Umm…《Open》」

First, in order to confirm the situation, I open the menu by relying on the inserted knowledge. Then, a black, half transparent window screen appears in front of me.
This is one of the special abilities Syl has given me.

=====

Status
【Name】Takumi Kayano
【Race】Human?［Wind God’s retainer (Temporary)］
【Occupation】
【Age】20
【Level】3
【Skills】
Light Magic 50 | Dark Magic 50
Wind Magic 150 | Space Magic 100
Life Magic 100
Swordsmanship 50 | Throwing 18
Appraisal 200 | Dismantling 100
Cooking 85 | Sewing 23
Washing 12 | Cleaning 31
Crafting 37
Arithmetics 107 | Reading 125
Physical Attack Resistance 300 | Magic Attack Resistance 300
【Titles】
Transmigrated From a Different World
Blessed by the God of Creation, Malianor
=====

A status screen appeared.

Alright, the name is my full name. Those with Family name are nobility! Though there are cases like that, it should to be all right.
Eeeh!? Race! Question mark!? I, I am not a human?
Rather, a follower? I have become god's retainer (Temporary)!? I didn't hear anything about this, Syl!!
Why!? Is what I thought, but thinking about it carefully, this body was made by Syl so it's probably because of that……? He said something about his power dwelling inside…… it can't be helped at this time…… let's leave it at that.
Class. Blank space. Maa, that's right.
20 years old… I became younger……
Level 3. Un? …… Ah, did my level raise after killing the Red Wolf? Then, no problems here.
Skills are…… relatively decent…? To be honest, I thought Syl might forget because he's like that. Un, I'm somehow relieved.
Let's see…… the numbers are proficiency? 50 is generally "more or less usable", over 100 is skilled. Over 200 is master rank. 300 is MAX? Getting that far is a miracle.
I see~ Looking at the proficiency numbers of the skills, the magic and such is what Syl gave me and cooking and such are what I already had originally?
Because I lived alone, cooking was mundane, I sewed my buttons and did some weekend carpentering.
Still, the resistances…… are completely strange? The proficiency is MAXED. Is this that? That thing Syl said he will choose himself? Ah, mou…… he was too enthusiastic…
Umm, next is titles. Titles are something like nicknames or aliases?
Transmigrated From a Different World…… Maa~ seems right.
The God of Creation Malianor is the chief god who is supported by the four others, right?
What is a blessing? When did I receive a blessing? Maa… while I was asleep, right…
But, wouldn't it say "Blessing of the Wind God's Sylphreel" normally?

——Piron♪

Ah, the titles increased.
Let's see, let's see……【Friend of Wind God Sylphreel】……

Yosh! Let’s move on!

U~mm, next is……

There’s a tab beside status and item menu.

It’s a map.

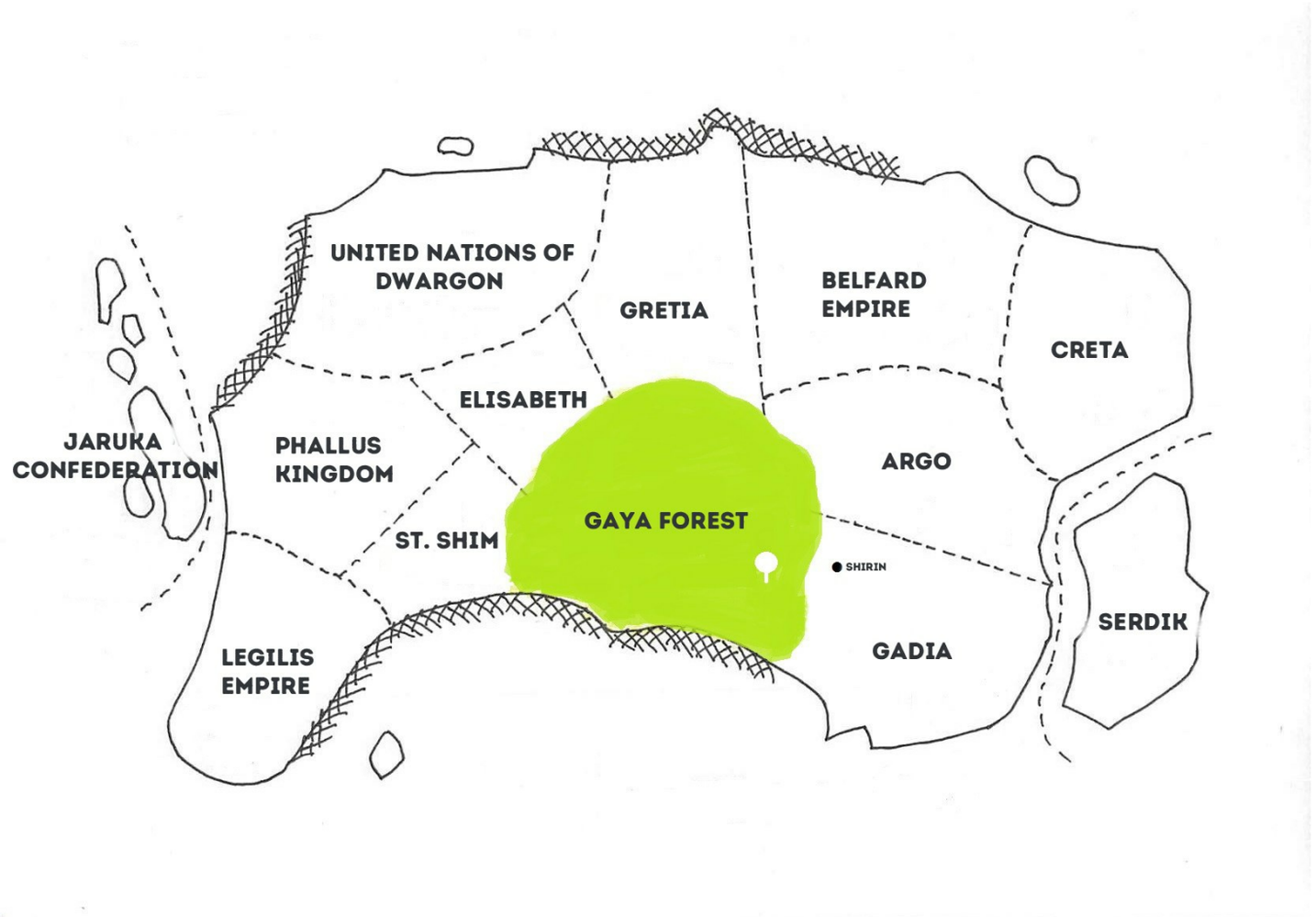
When I try to view that, a map appears on the whole screen. This is apparently a world map.

Rough dotted lines are drawn, country names and their capitals are displayed.

There are ten countries on the main continent. One island country. And one Confederation on a small archipelago. There are 12 countries in total.

There’s a forest on the south side in the center of the continent.

There’s small white pin stuck in the place it says『Gaya Forest』.



When I touch that pin, the map zooms in and the area around the pin becomes detailed.
Un, this is the place I'm at. I'm sure.
When I move while looking at the map, the pin also moves. Present location found!

I slide the map away and inquire about the details of this forest.
This『Gaya Forest』is large. Furthermore, this forest passed through five countries.
Where should I go? From my present location, the Gadia Country in the east is closest. There's a town called Shirin slightly away from the forest.
Let's go there. The destination, a town called Shirin.

Umm, next is……
The next tab is item list. While thinking to examine that, I felt like someone was watching me, so I turned around and saw two little children looking at me.
Azure colored hair and gold eyes. Thin bodies with simple ragged clothes stained with dirt.
Judging from the atmosphere, one is a girl and one a boy, but two of them looks

exactly the same.
Twins?
It's strange that there are children alone in the forest, I don't sense any other people around.

「Are you lost? Did you come here alone?」

When I ask the most plausible reason, the children tilt their heads. They look blankly at me in silence.
When I take a step forward, they take a step back.
…… They seem to be cautious of me.
I use the appraisal skill and a window appears in front of me.
Seems like appraising people is possible.

=====

Status
【Name】
【Race】Human?
【Occupation】
【Age】5
【Level】12
【Skills】
Water Magic | Hand-to-hand Combat
Throwing | Presence Detection
Abnormal Status Resistance
【Titles】
????

=====

It seems I'm not able to view skill proficiency of other people.
Or is it related to a proficiency of my appraisal skill?
Nevertheless, why do I feel like the status of these two children is not normal…
The name parts are blank… it means that they don't have names, right?
Also, "human?" again. Is that race normal over here?
The titles part is question marks…
N~ what should I do? First of all, leaving like this would be inhumane…

「There's nothing to fear, won't you come over here?」

Ah, they came when I called.
I had to drop on my knees and timidly beckon them, but they approached.

「Umm,《Washing》… and《Heal》」

First, I cleaned their bodies with Life Magic. As the name suggest, Life Magic is closely related to livelihood. Wash the target with《Washing》, illuminate surroundings with《Light》, make things dry with《Dry》etc…… It has the smallest power, but it has a wide range of uses, it's a convenient magic usable with the smallest amount of magic power.
The eyes of the two shined and blinked in surprise, but they probably judged that they are in no danger so they didn't run away.
After making their bodies clean, I could see small wounds all over their bodies so I healed them with healing magic. Healing Magic is Light attribute magic so I have it.

「Yosh! This is good. The next is a meal……」

They are this thin, they must be very hungry.
I check the item list while thinking so.

「Umm, there is…… money, equipment, medicine… water and food. Food is… umm…… hard-baked bread and dried meat… It seems too hard for the children right now. It seems hard to digest… Ah, fruit. Would this be easier to eat?」

The fruit, Ranka is sweet and rehydrating, it greatly resembles a peach. I retrieve fruits from the《Infinite Storage》and offer it to the two children.

「Here, eat up」

I place the fruit in the hands of the two children.
The two examine and sniff the Ranka fruit in their hands. After a while, they confirm that it's not dangerous and start eating.
They look like small animals.
Seeing them comfortably eating, I once again confirm the contents of the item list.

「There's also… raw meat, vegetables, and wheat flour…… huh……」

…… Syl. Even if you give me ingredients, I can't cook without seasonings……

——Piron♪

Ah, an item was added.
A set of kitchen utensils and seasonings were added to the item list after I complained towards Syl. Seems like Syl confirmed the circumstances over here and send me the items.
There's only one thing I can do!

I would love tableware. Additional change of clothes and towels would be nice. Ah, there a considerable distance from here to the nearest town. An overcoat or blanket would really help for camping.

——Piron♪

I heard a mechanical sound from somewhere and a large quantity of items was added to the list.
…… Un. Syl, thank you.

While I was doing that, the children finished eating the fruit and *jii*~ were staring at me.
Because the clothes added to the item list were not only for me, but even for the children, I decided to change their clothes.
I click on the《Clothes》on the item list and retrieve clothes from the《Infinite Storage》.

「Isn't it too tight, can you move freely?」

Oh, they nodded. It seems all right.
These children, although they do not talk, they properly understand me, right?

「I'm now going to leave the forest and go to the nearby town, do you want to go together with me?」

I can't leave the children here so I ask them, the two children look at each other.
They seem to be conversing. Although they are not talking…
Is that it? The mutual understanding between twins?
They look at me. Did they decide? Nodding means they want to go with me, right?

「I’m Takumi. Best regards」

[] [TOC] [Map] []

Chapter 4

As expected, those two don't have names.
Therefore——

「Yosh, I decided! You are Allen. And you are Elena」

I think it would be inconvenient from now on if they didn't have names, I named the boy Allen, and the girl Elena.
I somehow felt these names would be suitable.
Were the names appropriate? Allen and Elene seem satisfied so it's okay.
When I checked their statuses, it had already recognized them as Allen and Elena.
I don't know what criteria it has been decided on, but changing it again is now impossible. Hahaha~!

In such way, the three of us peacefully walk through the forest.
The two children are thin, but they have stamina. They are following me without complaining.
However, because they are without a doubt children, I take a break and let them drink water and eat dried persimmons.
Dried persimmons? It something Syl has added into my inventory. There are several types of dried fruit, there was also some onigiri, but they are already eaten.
By the way, rice does exist in Aetherdia. It's called white wheat over here and is mainly used as feed for domestic animals.
If I want to buy some, I will have no chance buy to purchase it from a domestic animal farmhouse?
Ah! It seems something similar to soy sauce and miso also exists!
After all, for a Japanese, it's a rice! Soy Sauce! Miso! Right~ I'm glad this world also have them~♪

Has it been approximately after an hour that we started walking again? Allen and Elena started suddenly running.

「Eh? What!?」

What came into my sight was two children chasing after a huge boar three times the size of them——I saw them charging at a Giant Boar.

「Allen! Elena!」

They run with all their power, but they doesn't seem to be able to catch up.
They are obviously chasing after a monster.
I can't shoot the monster with magic because the two are there.
What should I do!? While thinking so——

Allen and Elena vigorously run towards one of the Giant Boars without stopping and give it a flying kick.
The Giant Boar they kicked screams『Buhi』and gets blown off backward.
Once they kick it, they jump up right after landing and give an axe kick to the Wild Boars neck.
The Giant Boar goes *doshin* and collapses.

「……」

So strong! What are these five-year-olds!!
These children certainly are level 12, but… Eh, is this normal!? A common sense of children of this world?
That can't be true. Normal children would die.
While I unconsciously stopped running because of the shock and stood in place absentmindedly, Allen and Elena returned to my place as if nothing happened.

「「……」」
「…… Haa——— You two… you knew there was a Giant Boar so you started running?」

Two two children nod at my deep sigh.
They seem to understand.

「Would you tell me next time you found something before you start running?」

The two children nod again.
Don't they have any sense of danger…? It's a great achievement that these two young children survived like this until now, but if they keep on running away each

time a monster appears, I will be in a bind.
I'm taking care of the children, letting them protect me would be foolish.
After confirming the two aren't injured I lightly pat their heads, then I face the defeated Giant Boar.
They probably don't know that monster meat can be eaten. Allen and Elena are ignoring the downed monster.
They don't have a knife to dismantle it, nor they are able to build fire to cook it, so it may not have any significance for these two.
I collect the Giant Boar while the two look at me with "What are you going to do with that?" expressions.
First of all, let's store it inside my《Infinite Sotrage》. If I can sell this in the town, I will purchase supplies for these two.
After deciding, I beckon the two children and walk towards outside of the forest.

After that.
Following Giant Boar the three of us encountered the Bloody Bear, Red Wolf x2, Great Monkey x2.
Each time, when Allen and Elena noticed a monster, they would pull on my clothes or arms to let me know.
However! Right after letting me know, they would immediately run off and start chasing monsters bigger than me.

Not knowing what to do with them, I checked for injuries then patted their heads. The two children close their eyes and smile in comfort while I pat them.
Are? Doesn't this mean I'm praising them?
That's why the two run off chasing after monsters…?
I thought that my real intentions didn't transmit, but I couldn't stop myself from patting Allen's and Elena's heads.

Chapter 5

The overall dark forest became even darker.
Seems like the sun went down.
That being the case, I decided to stop advancing for today.

「Allen, Elena. I will make a fire so help me gather some wood」

Saying that, I pick up a fallen twig, Allen and Elena imitate me and start gathering.
What should I do for dinner?
Syl has supplied me with some ordinary bread, so… let's make a simple vegetable soup.
Should I also dismantle the monster meat and make some meat skewers?
The two children are bright so if I let them eat the dismantled meat, they will realize that monster meat can be consumed.

I store the gathered twigs in the《Infinite Storage》and take out one Red Wolf.
This is the fellow I killed with the air bullet. Maa, I have no other way at the moment……
I retrieve a knife, I cut open the Red Wolf's abdomen first to drain the blood in order to start processing.
If I defeated the Red Wolf with a sword, I would pay attention to the value of the fur and start processing from the wounds, but there is no conspicuous wound by killing it with an air bullet, so starting at its abdomen is the theory.
I have the knowledge of dismantling, I even have the skill. Because of that, the dismantling process is mysteriously imprinted in my body.
There's no challenge even though I'm dismantling for the first time. My body moves without hesitation. Even the blood flowing from its cut open abdomen is taken for granted.
The new body itself doesn't feel uncomfortable, but I have realized that the previous Kayano Takumi and the present Kayano Takumi are different.

The dismantling advanced without a delay.
Allen and Elena *ji*~ were staring at my first dismantling.
It's a gain if they remember the process even if only a little. Still, they are only 5

years old so I really don't expect them to start dismantling anytime soon.

After I finish, I store the fur, materials, and meat into the《Infinite Storage》and bury the non-usable internal organs in a hole I dug beforehand. The air is filled with the scent of blood so I disperse it with Wind Magic, I washed my body with《Washing》and decided to move a bit just in case.

Now then, with the preparations complete, let's start making the dinner.
First, I make a simple stove with the stones and light the fire.
I have a Life Magic《Ignition》which allows me to make a fire, but I used something called Ignition Stone in order to show Allen and Elena how to make a fire with tools.
Maa, it's that. It's similar to a match.

＝＝＝＝＝
【Ignition Stone】
A stone that bursts into a fire when directly injected with magic power.
Because only fragments of the stone are used, it's mostly disposable.
Because they won't be activated unless directly injected with magic power, storing them away in《Infinite Storage》is possible.
＝＝＝＝＝

Once the fire is lit, I pour water into a small pot and put it on the stove. Before the water starts boiling, I cut the Red Wolf meat into easy to eat pieces, pierce it on skewers and lightly salt it. I stab it around the stove and let it grill.
Once the water in the pot is boiling, I add vegetables and adjust the taste with a stock cube and salt.
The stock soup is a Japan-like product. It's a chicken consomme cube of a certain manufacturer[1]. There was no packing so I can't tell certainly, though.
The meat also looks ready when the soup is completed.

When I handed the grilled Red Wolf meat to Allen and Elena, they both sunk their teeth in without any hesitation. However, the the grilled meat was piping hot so they separated their mouths from it in panic.
I take my share of meat skewers and *fuufuu* show them how to cool it down.
Oh! Red Wolf meat is surprisingly tasty.
Seeing my way of eating, the two children *fuufuu* imitate me and blow on their

skewers and eat.
This seems to be their first time eating with tableware, so I carefully teach them how to hold a spoon. The children start eating the soup while tightly grasping their spoons.

We have met just a half a day ago, but the two twins are surprisingly attached to me.
They started eating straight away without cautiously sniffing it like before. They are now eating without hesitation.

「Is it tasty?」

The two nod at my question.
Un, they are all smiles.

Since there is nothing to do after the meal, I intend to sleep even though it just became dark. It would be better to get up earlier in the morning.
Thinking so, I retrieve a Barrier Stones.

＝＝＝＝＝
【Barrier Stone】
A magic tool that can raise a barrier.
The barrier is set up by stabbing the stake-like stones in the ground in four cardinal directions formation. It prevents monsters from entering the space between the stones.
At least four stones are necessary, the bigger the space between the stones is, the thinner the barrier gets.
＝＝＝＝＝

Un, it’s a convenient tool.
I set up the stones 3~4m in all directions. With this, I can sleep in peace without having to worry about being attacked by monsters.
Lying on the ground would be indeed painful so I wrap myself in a blanket and sit against a tree.
Is this the most comfortable? What about the children?
After sitting down, I look at Allen and Elena, but they are standing still, not knowing what to do.

「Allen, Elena. Come」

The two immediately came to me after calling them.
Then, I sit them to my sides, extend my hands around them and wrap them with my blanket.
The two got surprised and couldn't settle down, but they soon clung to me.
The children's bodies are warm like a hot-water bottle, warm and comfortable.
It's not surprising, but I got exhausted by the new environment. The sleepiness attacks me immediately and I fall asleep at once.

[] [TOC] [Map] []

Footnotes

1. Ajinomoto? ↩

Chapter 6 Part 1

We were able to safely pass through the Gaya Forest!
We have encountered many monsters, but I honestly pleaded to Allen and Elena to let me defeat them, and I brought them down with magic.
I'm glad the children are so understanding! Thanks to that, my level has raised to 11!

Even so, the forest is bigger than I thought. It took three full days to get out of the forest. Although I'm saying that, our pace was slow and we picked up fruits and herbs on the way.
We got out of the forest's eastern side on the fourth day. I don't know how long it would take to get out of the depths of the forest, but it was quite the distance to get out from the edge of the forest. It takes probably more than a month.

Ah! By the way, unlike Earth where the week has 7 days, Aetherdia's week is 6 days long.
In order——

Day of the Light, Day of the Fire, Day of the Water, Day of the Wind, Day of the Earth, Day of the Darkness

——They are called like that.
24 hours makes a day, 6 days makes a week, and 5 weeks makes a month.
30 days is a month and 12 months is a year. Therefore, one year consists 360 days.
The months are called without a change, First Month, Second Month, Third Month……
First~Third months are Spring
Fourth~Sixth months are Summer
Seventh~Ninth months are Fall
Tenth~Twelfth months are Winter

They are not much different from Japan's seasons. East of the continent is warmer, west is colder.
The eastern territories are the hottest in Summer, west territories are the

coldest in the Winter.
By the way, it is the Third Month now. Gadia's weather is very nice.

An empty grassland spreads before us after leaving the forest. There was something that could be considered a road so we walked for around 4 hours along it before seeing a town.
When we arrive at the gates of the town Shirin, soldiers… no, they are knights. Three knights are on the watch.
The town of Shirin is endorsed as a Rank A impregnable town at the edge of『Gaya Forest』.
N? That's right. We are in a very dangerous place.
The superior monsters are near the heart of the forest, so the monsters we have encountered were all relatively weak.
But, it's not known when a strong monster will come out of the forest. There's a branch of the Knights precisely because the town of Shirin is in such a place.
These knights are guarding the west gate we came to. One of the knight is waiting for us.

「You! Did you come from the Gaya Forest?」
「Yes. That's right」

The knight makes a surprised expression at my obedient answer.
Maa~ it's a dangerous place. I myself don't look any strong and even if I was, it's not a place one would normally take children with him.

「There were medicinal herbs I needed. We didn't go too deep and these children are strong enough to defend themselves」

As expected, I can't say that I was transferred to the forest by a god and it's better to answer honestly instead of making poor excuses.
Actually, we didn't go to the heart of the forest and we gathered herbs. It's also the truth that the children are strong.

「Did you get the herbs you needed?」
「Yes. Fortunately, I was able to obtain them in a nearby place」
「I see. Don't be too reckless. Then, you are entering the town, right?」
「Thank you very much for the advice. Of course, I would like to enter the town, but this is a gate one can enter and exit freely, right?」

The gates are normally open during the daytime, but this gate is closed for some reason.
But, I check just in case.

「This is a gate that only a few people come in and out, after all」

Ah, I see. It's such a thing.
The knight answers after looking at the gate and realizing that we are locked out.
This place is directly facing the Gaya Forest so only authorized knights and high ranked adventurers are utilizing it. Ordinary people rarely approach the gate so there's no reason to keep the gate open when there's no traffic.

「Hand me the identification papers」
「I'm sorry. We come from a rural village so we don't have identification papers yet」
「Come this way if that's the case. We have to do the inspection and other procedures」
「Yes. Sorry for the inconvenience, but I will be troubling you」
「Don't worry about it, that's our job!」

Chapter 6 Part 2

「First, please put your hand on this crystal」

We were taken to a small office-like room and a crystal was presented in front of me.
I put my hand on it as I was told to. When I do so, the crystal emits a faint white light.
This is a tool that determines whether one is a criminal or not when touched. It will start shining red if one is a criminal.
When one commits a crime, he will receive a corresponding title, the crystal seems to be reacting to that.
Also, when people want to start living in the town or when a baby is born, a resident card would be issued and a magic power will be registered at the same time. When the crystal finds out a person who committed a crime, the data would spread through the other crystals distributed worldwide, making it easy for other locations to understand that a criminal is trying to enter the town.
Meaning, it's waste of time trying to flee the country.

「Un. There are no problems. Please, let me inspect the children next」

Allen and Elena took turns putting their hands at the crystal. There were no problems so I had to pay the 200G (Minors are half the price) toll next.
I pretended that I'm taking money from the pocket while I retrieved 400G from the《Infinite Storage》.
This is from the knowledge that was inserted into my body, but it seems that there are not many people who have a Space Magic. Therefore, I decided to not use it in public.
The plan is to buy a small bag and use it as if it was a Magic Bag.

Right, right, the money on Aetherdia is called G(old)——

Copper Coin = 1G
Large Copper Coin = 10G
Silver Coin = 100G
Large Silver Coin = 1,000G

Gold Coin = 10,000G
Large Gold Coin = 100,000G
Platinum Coin = 1,000,000G

——The money is using such decimal system.
One Copper Coin has a value of around 10 yen. Therefore, the toll costs around 2,000 yen.
By the way, the amount of money I have presently at hand is approximately 1,000,000G. That makes about 10,000,000 yen.
Syl, so generous!
Also, what is strange that the money is listed as “G” in the item list, but I’m able to retrieve any coin.
Is exchanging Copper for Silver hard?. Is what I thought at first. But, I can take out the whole amount in copper coins and I can take it out even in gold coins.
How convenient…

「This will be your temporary identification papers. It’s necessary during your stay in town so don’t lose it. Also, if you plan to stay in the town for long, official identification papers would be needed to make」
「Yes. The plan is to register at the Adventurer guild」
「I see. Then, as soon as your registration is completed, return the temporary identification papers here」
「I understand」

I ask the kind Knight-samas about a recommended inn and enter the town.

We advance on the street to the inn the knights recommended to me.
The number of the people walking down the street is quite high, is it because the town is near the borders?
It seems that Allen and Elena see this many people for the first time as they are clinging around my waist as if glued to it.
This timid action is very cute, but it’s hard to walk.

This is it,『Komadori Pavilion』. The recommended inn.
It’s is an excellent establishment with good security and affordable prices, that’s what the knights told me.

When I open the door, Obasan in her 40 greets us.

「I'd like to stay, do you have a vacant room?」
「We have a room. One night for one is 400G, 500G with dinner and breakfast. Hot bath requires a separate fee.」

When I ask, Obasan politely replies.

「These children are with me, is it all right? They are obedient children, I don't think they will be an annoyance」

Small children may cry in the middle of a night, which may cause trouble later so I'm asking beforehand.

「Yes. It's all right. They are small so they will be fine sleeping in one bed」

It seems okay. The knight-samas might have recommended this inn with that in mind.
Moreover, it seems there's discount for children.

「Allen, Elena. Are you okay sleeping in one bed?」

When I ask the two who are clinging to me, they start clinging to me even more for some reason.
Uun? Does this mean no?

「Arara. It seems both of them really love Oniisan~ In that case, we have a room with a large bed, would you like to take that room?」

So not a twin, but a double room?
From the looks of it, it's unlikely that they will sleep in a separate bed.

「Let's do that. That room with the meal, please」

Because it's needed to pay in advance, I have paid for a week for now. It's a recommended inn by the knight-samas, it's surely all right.
And then, since there's still time until the dinner, I have asked for a location of a certain place and left the inn.

Chapter 7

The destination is a Shrine. It's roughly in the center of the town.
It's a white, stone building. Although old, the white color is preserved and the ivy crawling over the walls leaves a deep impression.
A big belfry is attached to the roof, just right now, *dong, dong*…… six chimes reverberate around the whole town.
The bell resounds every day at fixed times. It works as a clock for those who don't possess a high price magic tool. It basically substitutes a watch.
It chimes once at 6 in the morning. Then, the chime increases once every two hours, the Shrine's bell chimes until 10 in the evening where it chimes nine times.
Get up with a chime and sleep with nine. The people live around this bell.

Anyone can freely enter and exit the Shrine chapel.
The inside is spacious enough to accommodate a good number of people, a passage spreads straight to the altar in the back of the chapel from the entrance.
Oblong stools that can fit several adults each are lined along both sides of the passage, facing the altar.
A light shines from the high ceiling, illuminating the chapel.
Serenity. 5 stone statues are in the interior of the altar wrapped in such atmosphere.
A statue of a woman in the middle. This must be the God of Creation Malianor.
On both sides of Malianor-sama are four statues of men. On her right-hand side, there is the Fire God Salamanteel-sama and the Earth God Nomoodle-sama. On her left-hand side, the Water God Windell-sama and Wind God Sylphreel-sama——It's Syl.

「Will you wait here for a while?」

I sit Allen and Elena on one of the stools, stand in front of the statue of Syl and look at it.
Ah, it's Syl.
The stone statue has exactly the same appearances I remember.
People normally glorify and exaggerate the appearances of a god, but it seems

that the actual appearances of gods have been properly transmitted to the people of Aetherdia.

（Syl~ Can you hear me?）

I close my eyes and call Syl at once.

(Takumi-san, I can hear you)

Syl immediately answers back.
It seems my voice reached him properly.

(Did you get used to the life over there?)
(I have arrived at the town just today. So I don't think I can say I got already used to it. But, I didn't have a hard time thanks to the magic and the convenient tools)
(That is good)

Syl was really concerned about me, it felt like that.
Having people that are concerned about you is nice. It feels somewhat warming.

——However! This and that are different things!

(Right, Syl)
(What is it?)
(You didn't tell me. Isn't there something that you have to say to me?)

I can imagine Syl's body *piki~in* stiffen.

(W, what are you saying, I, I don't know~)

…… No, you are definitely shaking.
If you are going to pretend ignorance, I'm going to put on a little better performance.

(Hoho~u… I see… You don't know? Then, it can't be helped. They finally seem to taken liking to me, but if Syl doesn't know then I will have to put the poor children into an orphanage——)
(Wa, waa~!! Wait~!!

He gave up at once… I thought you were going to feign ignorance for a bit more, though~……

(I'm so~rry)

Ah, I don't see him, but he's definitely… prostrating……

(I thought it was strange. The starting location being A rank『Gaya Forest』, after all. No matter how you look at it, you would normally start at such impossible place! But, I was able to leave the forest before encountering a strong monster. Besides, it's strange for children to be in such a place! Moreover, they are "Human?" you know? At first I thought, there's a race like that in this world~ but, when I arrived at the town and appraised the people there, everyone was a normal human, demihuman, and suchmon. I was fully suspecting you, Syl. So, what's going on?)
(Uu~)
(Don't cry and start explaining. It's not like I will get angry or anything)

Syl bursts into tears while prostrating.
Nono, you are a god, right? First… no, first is Malianor-sama so you are the second most important person, right? Why are you so brittle?

(Go on)
(It can't be said from my mouth……)
(……)

When I urge the sobbing Syl to explain, he lets out some unexpected words.
What? "Can't say"…… moreover, Syl said, "from my"…

N~…
Is he forbidden to speak?
From whom?
No… if that's the case, wouldn't that be strange?
If he imprudently spills it out, would he get in trouble…?
An existence that can forbid Syl, a god from speaking, I can think only of those four.

(Say, Syl. Wind God, Fire God, Water God, Earth God, do you share nonaggression, territory or such things…between each other?)
(…… We do)

I see. They do……

That means, there's another god who has a relation with Allen and Elena?
I don't think it's Malianor-sama. Then, it's someone between Fire, Water, and Earth…

(It's just, those children are no ordinary children, leaving them would be dangerous…… I can tell you only that)
(I understand. I won't ask anymore. Just… am I all right?)
(Takumi-san has become a part of my family, but it doesn't change the fact that you will be living on Aetherdia like a normal human so… There's just no control restriction, so there's no limit to what you can do)
(Is there no problem with you assisting me?)
(Yes. It doesn't change that Takumi-san is my family and since you have received a blessing from Malianor-sama it's only natural to offer assistance)
(So, in the end, we are using a loophole……)

Allen and Elena are related to a god. Moreover, not just followers, something more important.
It's just my conjecture since I can't get more details, though.

…… At any rate——

(…… Was my existence a godsend?)
(… You are angry…… right?)
(Speaking honestly, if only you told me right away instead of stealthily scheming…… is what I'm thinking)
(I'm really sorry……)
(It's okay already. It's okay to rely on you when I encounter trouble, right?)
(Yes! I don't mind no matter how trivial it is. Please, contact me anytime!)
(I understand. I will be relying on you at that time. Laters)

The conversation with Syl was forcibly ended in the middle.
Syl himself is hopeless, I can understand his reasoning, but I was used, after all, I couldn't erase my negative emotions.
However, I'm definitely not angry nor disappointed.
My new heart just probably didn't settle properly yet. I think there won't be any problems if I give it a while. Once it's settled, I will contact Syl again and make many demands. That will make the offset.

「Allen, Elena. Come here」

Once my heart settled, I turn around and call the twins over.
When I call them, the two immediately trot over to me, I crouch and hold them in my arms.

「Thank you for waiting. Shall we return to the inn?」

I walk back to the inn with two smiling children in my arms and setting sun in the back.

Chapter 8

Good morning. Sleeping in the bed is indeed nice.
I have children on both of my sides so I can't really move, though.
Apart from that, listen to this! I didn't notice because I didn't have a mirror until now, but my eyes are green! When I saw my reflection in one of the windows, I was really startled. It's the same jade green as Syl's.
Because nothing was said regarding my appearances and I didn't request anything, so the appearances were done without my consent. Black hair was a necessity…
Maa, there are no problems if my eye color is different.

Now then, after we slowly finished breakfast, we headed to the Adventurer's Guild.
It's a building with a sign of a pentagon shield with two crossed swords.
When we enter inside, a spacious hall comes to sight. Because I came here today only to register, we set off with the third chime, but there are adventurers still loitering around here and there. Because these people are wearing armor and carrying weapons, there's no doubt that they are adventurers.
They are mostly concentrated around the bulletin board on the left side of the hall. That's most likely the place where requests are put.
Maa~ but, there's an available receptionist at the counter so I wasn't wrong to come at this time.
Without further ado, I take Allen and Elena and approach the receptionist.

「Good morning. What may I help you with?」

The female guild receptionist greets us with a sweet business smile.

「Adventurer registration, please. Ah, these children too. There's no age restriction, is there?」

When I convey my business, the receptionist looks at Allen and Elena. A surprised look appears on her face, but she immediately returns to her original expression.
Small children like these rarely come here, right?

The age of majority in this world is 15, but it's not unusual to start working earlier. Although I say that, it's just helping parents with work or routine tasks for the town. The Guild also has requests related to routine tasks for the town. However, most of the children who work like that are over 10 years old…

「Yes. There's no age restriction so registration is possible. Please fill the necessary information on this form. Do you require amanuensis[1] ?」
「No, it's all right. Thank you very much」

I give my thanks, receive the form and pen and check the contents. The necessary items to fill are the name, age, and special skill (Primary way of fighting). It's only these three items.
I have never seen the characters the form is written in before, but I properly understand them. There are no problems with writing.
After checking the form over, I fill out three papers.
For the special skills item, it's magic (Wind) for me, and hand to hand combat for Allen and Elena.
I hand the forms to the receptionist after filling them out.

「Yes, thank you very much. Please wait a moment until the card is completed」

When the receptionist miss received the forms, she checked whether there are some problems and then she started operating a crystal.
After several minutes, she lines up three credit card-like metal cards on the counter.

「Please check whether the name is correct then drip a drop of blood on the card. This will complete the registration. After the registration is completed, please check for abnormalities」

The Guild Card is a magic tool. The『ownership』of the card is determined by the blood and no one aside from the owner won't be able to use it.
First, I drip blood on my card and register it.

＝＝＝＝＝

＊Takumi Kayano
＊Human
＊20 years old

＊Personal Rank **F**
＊Party Rank —

【Request Record】
【Dungeon Record】
【Level】11
【Skills】
Light Magic | Dark Magic | Wind Magic | Life Magic
Swordsmanship | Throwing | Appraisal | Dismantling | Gathering
Cooking | Sewing | Washing | Cleaning | Crafting | Arithmetics | Reading
Abnormal Status Resistance | Mental Status Resistance
Physical Attack Resistance | Magic Attack Resistance
【Titles】
Transmigrated From a Different World
Blessed by the God of Creation, Malianor
Friend of Wind God Sylphreel
【Money】0G

＝＝＝＝＝

A good amount of information is written on the card.
Ah, I'm glad. It says I'm an ordinary Human.
There are 5 " ＊ " main entries are obligatory to display, therefore, it, fortunately, doesn't display the family. I feel relieved because the other information is optional and can be hidden. With this, only those with permission will be able to see my details.
There's a possibility that Guild staff would need to read it, but it should be all right if I just conceal the necessary details.
After that, Allen and Elena drip their blood on the cards and I don't forget to alter their settings.

「There's a fee for reissue, so please be careful of losing it. Would you like to hear the explanation about the guild?」

There's no fee to register as an adventurer, but it seems it costs 2,000G (2 Large Silver Coins) for reissue the card if lost.

I have the knowledge about the rules of the guild, but because it would be troublesome if there is some discrepancy, I request for the explanation.『Well then』Miss receptionist bowed and began the explanation.
First, the explanation about the ranks.
The ranks begin at F, and raising to E, D, C, B, A and S.
Rule of a thumb of the ranks——

F Rank – Newcomer
E Rank – Fledgling
D Rank – Full-fledged
C Rank – Skilled
B Rank – Superior
A Rank – Superior+α
S Rank – Hero

——Those are the standards.
In addition, there's something called a party where several people handle a single request. In that case, the Party Rank becomes the average rank of the party members.

The Requests which are located on the Request Board (Request Subject, Reward, Time Limit are written on them) you bring them from the board to the reception and once accepted, you can begin the request.
There's a recommended rank written on the Request and you are able to receive requests one rank above yours. The reward is received after completion, there is no penalty fee for failure.
The number of successful and failed requests is considered during a rank up. It's harder to rank up with too many failures and there even exists a penalty for consecutive failures.
Also, if you don't receive requests in three years, the registration will be revoked, and the registration will be disposed of if you commit vicious acts.
With the exception of materials collected for the requests, it's possible to sell monster materials, ingredients, *etc.* at the Guild's counter. There are fixed prices which profit the adventurers.

Of course, adventurers are free to sell their materials to individual shops, but if problems arise, the Adventurer's Guild won't get involved.
In addition, the Guild functions as a bank and the money deposited at the Guild can be withdrawn at any Guild branch in any country.
And last, the Guild does not involve in quarrels between fellow adventurers, injuries and in the worst case death are all self-responsibility. This concludes the explanation.

「This is all. Do you have any questions?」
「Yes, the party registration, please」
「I understand. Your guild cards, please」

I register me, Allen and Elena as a party at once.
The party's name is『White Wings』. I imagined angels since the children are god's relatives.

I have money that I received from Syl, but it's a finite amount, so I have to work for a steady income.
The identification papers were the purpose, but in a different world, it has to be Adventurer, right!
Therefore, I simply registered as an adventurer.
But, the problem is Allen and Elena.
It would be best if Allen and Ellen could do house-sitting when I'm on a request, but I think those two would definitely follow me.
Maa, the children are strong, they won't become a burden. If that's the case, it would be best to prepare everything right from the start.
It would be better than having them sneaking away during the house-sitting.
Besides, I want those two to see various things and places!

「The registration is complete」
「Thank you very much」
「Will you receive a request today?」
「No…… ah! If I have medicinal herbs or monster materials at hand, will there be any problem using them for a request?」
「No, if the condition of the material is good, there are no problems. Do you have anything with you?」
「No, just making sure. Would it be alright to trouble you again if I have more

questions later?」
「Yes. I'm responsible for reception, my name is Luna. I look forward working with you」
「Thank you very much. You probably already know, but I'm Takumi. Please treat me well」

I recalled the materials from the Gaya Forest, but as expected, a newcomer who just registered bringing out such things would bring too much attention so I gave up.
Then, after giving my thanks to the polite receptionist miss——Luna-san, I take Allen and Elena and leave the guild.
After that, I went to return the temporary identification papers to the west gate and wandered around the town aimlessly afterwards.

[] [TOC] [Map] []

Footnotes

1. An **amanuensis** is a person employed to write or type what another dictates or to copy what has been written by another, and also refers to a person who signs a document on behalf of another under the latter's authority ↩

Chapter 9

When I wake up in the morning, Allen and Elena were already up. They are clinging on both of my sides staring at my face fixedly.
This has become a habit since our first camping in the forest.

「…… Morning」
「「……Mor… ning…」」
「!!」

They greeted me!! Allen and Elena spoke!
What adorable voices!
I who was greatly impressed hugged the two children reflectively.

◇◇◇

After having my fill of embracing the two, I finished preparations and we went to the guild.
It's full of people, unlike yesterday. I go towards the low-rank Request Board while Allen and Elena are tightly sticking to me in order to not get separated.
A low-rank male and female adventurers around my age are gazing at the board.
A great number of Requests are closely packed together on the board.
There are three main types of Requests.

Gathering Request——A gathering job of a specific medicinal plant or monster material.
Subjugation Request——A job to defeat a designated monster. After defeating it, a part of its body is necessary as a subjugation proof.
Escort Request——A job to escort a person/item from a town to a town or protect them in a specific location.

There are little to nothing Escort Requests for low-rankers. So I will be choosing between gathering and subjugation.
N~ what should I pick…… Would taking a gathering medicinal plants request at first be better? With that, Allen and Elena can go with me…
Thinking that, I pick one of the Requests and stand in the queue at the counter.

「The next person」

「Thank you」

My turn finally came.
The receptionist behind the counter is the same that took care of us yesterday, Luna-san.

「Ara, Takumi-san. Good morning. A Request?」
「Good morning. This is the Request, please」
「Excuse me…… A gathering of Lilie Grass, I see. Your Guild Card, please」

I hand the Request I picked to Luna-san after light greetings.
Luna-san confirmed the contents of the Request, received my Guild Card and quickly operated the crystal.

「10 Lilie Grasses is considered a batch so please be careful. The time limit is until three days later」

Luna-san explains the important points of the Request.

「Thank you very much」

While saying my thanks, I received back my Guild Card and we leave the Guild.

We go towards the south gate at once.
There is a small forest in the south of Shirin. There are no monsters aside from E, F Rank slimes, and wolves. It's a relatively safe area so it's just the right place for newcomers and unskilled adventurers.

「Allen, Elena. This is the Lilie Grass」

After getting to the forest, I immediately find the Lilie Grass and show it to children. It has a dark green stalk with several jagged maple-like leaves.
The Lilie roots aren't necessary so I cut the stalk and pick it up without the roots.

「If you find it, gather it like this. Understood?」

After Allen and Elena nod, they start searching the area for Lilie Grass at once.
They found it immediately. They timidly hold it in their tiny hands and trot over to me.
They uneasily look at me while holding out the Lilie Grass to me.

「It's all right, this is the one. You did great~」

I pat the two children's heads and receive the Lilie Grass while praising them. Happy for being praised, *kya, kya* they make a merry and run off looking for another Lilie Grass.
I'm glad. It seems that their emotions and voices are returning little by little.
I feel relieved that they are growing in the right direction.

Now then, I should also start looking around~
I found the plant right after I began the search.
Oh, Cren Grass and Maryoku Grass are also there. There was a request for that too if I'm not mistaken. Let's gather that too. Even if the Request won't be there anymore, I can just store it in the《Infinite Storage》for the time being.
Thinking that, I gather one plant after another.
Along the way, Allen and Elena learned the characteristics of the various plants I was picking and also started looking for them.

Our gathering in the forest continues until the noon and the prepared jute bag was full of gathered medicinal plants.
We gathered a sufficient amount.

「Allen, Elena. Let's stop for today」

When I call the two, they trot over to me with hands full of medicinal plants.

「You both gathered so much~ Amazing~」

When I praise them after receiving the plants, the two children make joyful expressions.
So cute~ The two laughed a lot today.

「Yosh, let's return to town after eating a meal」

We left the forest, sat in the middle of a meadow with a great scenery, and returned to the town after eating the food I bought at the stall in the town.

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When we return to the Guild, I go straight to the Request Board and look for Requests with other medicinal plants.
Umm… Cren Grass, Maryoku Grass, oh, Fenze Grass is also there.
I pick the Requests after comparing the gathered plants with the Requests. I

have many plants that are insufficient numbers so I decide to store them in《Infinite Storage》and go to the counter.

「Welcome back」

The one who greeted me at the counter was Luna-san again.

「We have returned. These Requests in addition to the Request we have received this morning」
「I will confirm. Put the materials in this basket please」

After exchanging greetings, I put the Guild Card together with the new Requests on the counter. Luna-san received them and took out a basket.
I place the medicinal plants into that basket. Because all kinds of medicinal plants were in the 10 Requests I picked, I line them up while counting.

「… Y, you have quite a lot. It's quite difficult to gather this much in half a day…」
「It's because the children did their best」

The medicinal plants turned into a heap because the basket is unexpectedly small.
Luna-san was a slightly surprised at the amount of medicinal plants I took out, but she promptly started checking the medicinal plants.

「This is this time's reward」

Once the confirmation of the medicinal plants is done, the reward money is presented. I confirm the amount of money at the counter and put them into a bag.
And when I think of returning——

「Why are brats in here!」

A large, bald adventurer comes over while shouting.

Chapter 10

「Why are brats in here!」

A loud voice echoes around the Guild.
That voice gathers the attention of the other people around.

「They are my company, is there a problem?」
「This is not a place for brats to play!」
「No… they are obediently behaving, right? I don't think they are being a nuisance to you, but?」
「There are nuisance just by being here!」
「Just by being here, you say…… give me a break…」

This is the type of person who would pick up a fight no matter what I say. I'm certain my words won't connect with him.
I would like to settle this peacefully, but…… now then, how to deal with this……
I wanted to sigh, but I forcibly suppressed it. The opponent seems to be the type that would get even more agitated by it.
Nevertheless, to think that there would actually be person who would pick a quarrel for no reason…… I thought this would happen only in novels.

「Oi! Don't ignore me!」
「No, I told you…」
「Aan!? Are you defying me right now?」

The opponent suddenly extends his hands and grasb me by the collar without a thought.
Ah, it's no use no matter what I say. Talking is impossible.
Now then…… what to do……
While thinking so, the hand that was grabbing me was suddenly repelled.

「Ah…」

When I let the voice, it was already too late.
Allen and Elena kicked the bald adventurer's hand away. Then, they proceed to kick him in the abdomen just like that.
The adventurer let's out『Gu!』a suffering groan while his upper body bent. He

then fell back right on his backside.

「Uwa! Stop, stop! Allen, Elena. Wait!」

I shout in panic.
I stop Allen and Elena a second before they can both land ax kick on the collapsed adventurer's head.
The kicks that were going to land directly on his head just barely swept beside him.
That was dangerous… seriously dangerous…
He would definitely die if those ax kicks landed.
His upper body fall down with a thud and he stopped moving. He must have already fainted after suffering the hit to his abdomen.

A silence drifts in the Guild which was noisy just a minute ago.
The adventurers and the Guild staff stiffened in shock.
Even if they are used to fighting, witnessing small children KO'ing a grown man must have been really surprising.
Well then…… what do I do now?

「Ou. Excuse me…… N? What?」

A person walks into the guild and looks around the stiffened adventurers and guild staff dumbfoundedly.

「What, what? Did something happen?」

A familiar voice. If I'm not mistaken, it should be one of the west gate Knight-samas.
He is not wearing armor today, but a dark blue knight uniform.
Thanks to him, the stopped time in the Guild started moving again.
First of all, I turn to the Guild staff behind the counter and timidly ask.

「Ah~…… Is there a punishment in a case like this?」

I can't leave without asking that, right?

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There was no punishment.
This time, we were not at fault because the other party one-sidedly picked a

quarrel with us and we only defended ourselves.
I'm glad…
The fallen adventurer was dragged to the guild's sick bay by other adventures on the guild staff instructions, he started moving again normally after a while.

「This~ Takumi-san…」
「Yes?」
「See…… the children……」
「He?」

Luna-san reservedly calls out to me. Prompted by those words, I turn around to look at Allen and Ellen…… they were crying.
There were shedding tears without a voice.

「Waa!? Why are you crying!?」

I rush up to the two children in panic and crouch to match their line of sight.

「Injuries… none, right? What's wrong?」
「…… Don't… leave us……」

They cling to me with a fragile voice.
Leave? Why?
Perhaps, is it because I raised my voice a little while ago? Are those two uneasy because of that?
They thought I was angry at them…

「There's no way I would leave you? It's all right, okay?」

I embrace the crying children while repeating『It's all right』『We are together』 in a gentle voice.
It took about ten minutes for those two to calm down.

「Here, you must be thirsty, right?」

Still sobbing a little, I hand the two a fruit juice.
They cried a lot, I must let them rehydrate properly.

「In the end, what has happened?」

Ah, Knight-sama, you are still here…
The Knight-sama from the west gate is the second commanding officer of Shirin

Knight's, a noble named Grunwald Ruven.
A captain of one of five Shirin's divisions. The second most important person in the Shirin Knights. It seems he came today to talk to the Guild Master.

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Status
【Name】Grunwald Ruven
【Race】Human
【Occupation】Knight
【Age】26
【Level】32
【Skills】
Swordsmanship | Spearmanship | Throwing | Fire Magic
Horseback Riding | Dismantling | Commanding
Etiquette | Dancing
Physical Attack Resistance
【Titles】
Count Ruven's Second Son
Knight of the Flaming Sword

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Un, he has the skills appropriate of a noble knight-sama.
Indeed, a knight should be about riding a horse and swinging weapons around.
Besides,【Commanding】. Un, I feel like it's necessary for a captain.
【Etiquette】and【Dancing】is noble-ish.
The title【Knight of the Flaming Sword】sounds cool~ Looking at the name, is it about using a sword enhanced with Fire Magic?
…… Oops, he asked a question.

「They probably thought I would abandon them」
「Haa? What's that about? You, would you do such a thing?」
「I won't do anything like that! Please don't such something so disgraceful」
「Then, why are they thinking so?」
「No~ I didn't perfectly grasp the understanding yet, I still don't understand well~」

That's the truth. I don't know their circumstances before meeting me at that place.

「They are your children…… probably not, they are your sibling, aren't they?」
「Unfortunately, they are not. I have just met these children recently. To be precise, a week ago? They were in the Gaya Forest」
「Haa?」
「If they were discarded or just lost, I do not know, though」
「Seriously?」
「Yeah. Wasn't there recently a carriage attacked near the Gaya Forest or something? They were most likely slaves」

Weren't they sold as slaves because they don't have parents? Is what I think. After all, if they were in the orphanage, I wouldn't meet them in a place like that.

「…… There certainly was. A Slave Trader from the Argo was attacked by monsters in the Gaya Forest while heading to this town」

Luna-san immediately recalls the information.

「Ah, as expected. They were probably made into a decoy」
「Children like these…」
「It doesn't look like they were the ones to become the decoy in the end, though. In this case, how are these children going to be treated? There won't be problems if I take them in, right? Fortunately, they don't have any proof of being slaves」
「In that case, they are simply treated as orphans.There won't be problems to put them into orphanage or raise them yourself.。Besides, it looks like these children completely recognize you as their guardian. If you'd like, I will guarantee you」
「Ruven-sama, thank you very much」

I was worried about the interference from the merchant, but it doesn't seem like there will be problems.
It seems like Ruven-sama will become the guarantee.

「Wald is all right. Apart from that——」
「Rather than that, Takumi-san! You went into the Gaya Forest?」

Luna-san interrupts Ruven-sama who said it's okay to call him Wald-sama, and

she bends forward over the counter.

[] [TOC] [Map] []

Chapter 11

「Rather than that, Takumi-san! You went into the Gaya Forest?」
「Eh?」
「What's going on!!」
「… Yes. There were medicinal plants I needed」

What an amazingly angry look……
Gaya Forest…… was there such settings?

「Is the reason you asked about the materials at hand when you came first to the Guild possibly…」

Ah, she noticed. Luna-san, you remember it…

「Do you have them?」
「……」

What to do?
Luna-san is staring at me with a great vigor. No…… no those are eyes looking at a prey……

「You have them, right? …… Right?」
「…… Yes」

Chills ran through my back for some reason.

In the end, I was completely defeated by Luna-san's insight.
Therefore, I decided to sell the materials I obtained in Gaya Forest.
As expected, because a number of days passed since then, I keep silent about the materials in the《Infinite Storage》and decided to sell only the one processed Red Wolf's magic stone, fur, claws, fangs, and medicinal plants and fruits.
There wasn't much, but Guild staff including Luna-san were overjoyed.
There are many calm zones in the outskirts of Shirin except Gaya Forest. The security is tight, the flow of people is high because the town is near the borders, but there doesn't seem to be many veteran adventurers.
There are only a few adventurers who recently went to Gaya Forest so the stock of advanced materials significally decreased, Luna-san earnestly explained.

「Which reminds me, Wald-sama. Didn't you come to talk with Guild Master?」
「Yeah, regarding an expedition. We periodically go to the Gaya Forest to thin out the monsters. If left alone, the monsters would start pouring out which would be really troubling」
「Is it a joint expedition of knights and high ranked adventures?」
「Yeah. The number of people I can take is limited because I can't take everyone along. If I don't go into the depths, I won't have enough people」
「It's an A Rank forest, after all~」
「Because of that, Takumi. You are participating」

Haa? What are you talking about?

「Nono, I'm an F Rank, you know!?」
「If you are able to go alone and defeat a Red Wolf there are no problems, right?」
「……」

Crap, I made a mistake. I shouldn't take out the Red Wolf materials!

「Oh, it looks that Guild Master is free now. I will make an official request later, don't run away」
「Wa, wait!」

Saying just that, Wald-sama walks into the Guild Master's office.

「…… I can reject a designated request, right?」

I ask Luna-san after a while of silence.

「It's not impossible. But, when it comes to official request from the Knights, it becomes a request of the country so……」

Why did your voice become cloudy at the end!? Please confirm that I can decline!
Why did it become like this? Where did I make a mistake?
Where? I did take out the Red Wolf materials, right……
Uwaa, it's my fault! Aah, mou…

「Anyway, I'm going home for today……」
「Yes, thank you for your hard work」
「Allen, Elena. We are leaving~」

I lift the two who are still uneasy and leave towards the inn.

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——Inside the Guild Master's office.

「Ruven-dono, sorry for the wait」

The one greeting is a grizzled elderly man. This man is precisely the Guild Master of Gadia's Shirin Adventurer's Guild branch.

「No problem. It's I who should apologize for coming during busy times」

Grunwald sits on a sofa, facing the Guild Master. A female staff member puts a cup of tea in front of them, she then bows and quietly leaves the room.

「Nono. Are you here today regarding the subjugation expedition to Gaya Forest?」
「That's right. As usually, I will leave the arrangements of adventures to you. The time planned is at the beginning of the Fourth Month for one week」
「I understand. I will prepare the request immediately」
「Ah, in addition, please include a nomination for a person named Takumi Kayano this time」
「Takumi Kayano… is it? I'm not familiar with that name, but…」

The business advanced smoothly as usually. But, Grunwald had one more request that is different from the usual.
Grunwald smiled at the Guild Master with a mysterious grin.

「He's an F Rank newcomer who has registered to the Guild just recently. It's only natural that Guild Master doesn't know of him」
「You want to include a new adventurer to the expedition to Gaya Forest?」
「Although a newcomer, he's no amateur」

Grunwald recalls the moment Takumi came to the town for the first time and the another meeting from today.
He's an ordinary youth at glance. But, he perceived an extraordinary presence from that youth. It was only his intuition as an experienced fighter, though.

「He caught your eyes, is what you are saying?」
「I'm interested a bit. Therefore, three parties as usual plus one, please」

Besides, the children that are with the youth. They are no ordinary children. Although he didn’t see it directly, according to the people who saw, those children destroyed a giant man in an instant.
That was enough for Grunwald to show interest.
Incorporating them into a party made of A Rank and B Rank adventurers…

The subjugation expedition in Gaya Forest that Grunwald always considered troublesome. He can’t help it, but to look forward to the due date this time. That is the face Grunwald is making.

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Later, an official request from the Knights arrived.
The designated request with all the details was handed to me by Luna-san.
Nono, please don’t look at me with that smile!
I will decline…… eh? To decline, I have to go directly to the Knights? No way… that’s impossible…… I understand. I will start preparing…
Eh? Please bring a lot of advanced materials, you say…… Luna-san……

idle talk 1

Stomach, empty.
Cold.
Painful.

Before I noticed, imouto, together.
Dark, cold, place.
Morning? and night? Twice.
The muddy food, I ate a bit.
After that, only motionlessly, sitting.

I, how long, remain here?
I want to get out, from here.
Outside, let me out.

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「You damned brats, get out!」

I can leave?
When I go out, a carriage? I was placed in.
Where, to?

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Rattlerattle, it drives.
Unknown, place.
Where, being taken to?

「Monsters! What happened to the escort!」
「There are too many! They are coming this way」
「Tsk! Can’t be helped. Use the brats and escape. Throw away one!」

Ah, stop.
What are you doing, to imouto.

「Oi, one is enough for the decoy」

No.

Not leaving.

「Stop dilly-dallying. Both are fine, hurry up! We are leaving」

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Pain.
Something, coming.
Have to escape.

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Someone, here?
What to do?
Take, a look?

「Are you lost? Did you come here alone?」

Unpleasant, feeling not here.
A good person, perhaps?
With magic, made our bodies clean.
Injuries, healed too.
Gentle, person, I wonder?

「Here, eat up」

To eat, is okay?
For us?
…… Delicious.

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I am, Allen.
Imouto, is, Elena.
Names, we received.
Happy.
Good boy, he pats, my head.
Tightly, he embraces us.
Warm.

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Delicious, meals, gives us a lot.
Sleeps, together.
When wakes up, good morning, he says.
Good boy, he praises me.

A gentle, face.
Warm, hands.
Oniichan, I love.
Al~ways.
For~ever, together, want to stay.

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Release, Oniichan!

「Allen, Elena. Wait!」

Angry?
I, did something, bad?
I am sorry.

「…… Don't… leave us……」

No.
Stay together.
Don't abandon us.

「There's no way I would leave you? It's all right, okay?」

Really?
Be, together, is okay?
Stay, with Oniichan, is, okay?
I will be, a good boy.
From now on, always, together!

Chapter 12

Few days after Allen and Elena KO’ed the bald adventurer.
At present, we do Requests for two days and take one day off. I’m taking on Requests like this in order to not burden the children’s bodies. We were able to steadily raise our ranks to E.

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Status
【Name】Takumi Kayano
【Race】Human?［Wind God’s retainer (Temporary)］
【Occupation】Magic Master
【Age】20
【Level】13
【Skills】
Light Magic 52 | Dark Magic 51
Wind Magic 157 | Space Magic 109
Life Magic 124
Swordsmanship 50 | Throwing 34
Appraisal 202 | Dismantling 117
Cooking 92 | Sewing 23
Washing 12 | Cleaning 31
Crafting 37 | Gathering 13
Concealment 22 | Detection 12
Arithmetics 107 | Reading 125
Oracle 8
Physical Attack Resistance 300 | Magic Attack Resistance 300
【Titles】
Transmigrated From a Different World
Blessed by the God of Creation, Malianor
Friend of Wind God Sylphreel
Savior

＝＝＝＝＝

We defeat monsters on the side while doing Gathering Requests, my level slightly rose, my skills and skill proficiencies increased slightly.
I even obtained a【Savior】title.
Did I receive it only by being together with Allen and Elena?
I don't know what the standards are, but obtaining titles is not as surprising as meeting with a god, therefore I decided to leave it be for the time being.

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「Takumi-san, are you not going to a dungeon?」

We came to the guild right in the morning today.
Luna-san inquiries while I view the Request Board while looking for a good Request.

「Dungeon…… ah!!」

Dungeons are all over Aetherdia. I don't know to what extent the people of this world know about dungeons, but there exist 108 dungeons in total.
Dungeons difficulty is determined by the number and variety of the monsters inside, the floors are divided into a bottom, middle and high levels.
Although people are aware of dungeon's existence, there are still many undiscovered dungeons. As for how the dungeon's difficulty is determined……
It's determined by the existence and efficiency of dungeon's transfer devices.

Beginner Class——No transfer device.
Intermediate Class——Transfer devices are installed every ten floors.
Advanced Class——Transfer device on each floor.

Such easy to understand criteria are in effect.
Because it seems that capturing a single floor of Advanced dungeon takes up to several days, it wouldn't be possible to easily capture the dungeon without transfer devices.

In addition, it's unknown how the dungeons work, but the monster defeated in them don't leave corpses behind. Instead, defeated monsters leave behind a part of materials——they are leaving behind a Drop Item.
You never know what Drop Item will be left behind.
If you defeat Red Wolf, it's materials, claws, fangs or meat… you have no choice but to defeat many to get what you need.

Also, it's possible that a rare item would drop. Some amazing medicine can be obtained.
Maa~ it happens only rarely.

There is a 15-floors deep Low dungeon near Shirin.

「I totally forgot their existence. No wonder we rarely bump into other adventurers outside the town」
「Is that so? I was certain you didn't want to go because of the children. You are very helpful because you are taking on Requests on non-dungeon materials, though」
「You mean that most of the adventurers are going to the dungeon?」
「Yes. Most of the adventurers, up to D-Rank go to the nearby dungeon. The adventurers above D-Rank mostly take on Escort Requests. Truthfully, only a few newcomers go to the outskirts of the town」

The monsters near the town aren't a big deal. You must make a few days trip to arrive at a place with strong monsters.

「The dungeon is a half day on foot from here, after all」

Half a day, huh… it's surprisingly close.
Going to the dungeon certainly enables making more money than going to the outskirts.

「Then, should we also go to take a look~」
「Eh!? You are going?」

Luna-san gets surprised at my muttering.

「We can't?」
「Nono, that's not it. It's just the designated Request for Gaya Forest is next week, so I was thinking if it's not too hard timewise……」
「Ah. You could say I intended only to take a look at the bottom floors before challenging, so we should have plenty of time, right? If I deduct a day off before the designated Request and the travel time, we should be diving just for three days」

Because the traveling may increase with Allen and Elena traveling with me, we will be able to dive at least for three days.

It’s plenty of time for sightseeing, right?

「I think so. Fufu. When it comes to Takumi-san and the children I was under the selfish impression that you would “capture” it straight away」
「You are expecting too much from E-Rank adventueres」
「Ara, not at all. It’s not just me, it’s the evaluation of the entire Guild, you know?」

I have a feeling that the Guild’s expectations got heavy since the incident on the day of our first Request.
Even though I was just a human that didn’t stand out at all on Earth, I have a feeling that it’s the exact opposite on Aetherida.
I stopped being normal the moment I became a god’s retainer, though……
I just can’t get used to it.
I left the guild with such complicated thoughts and purchased the necessities (mainly food).
After that, I informed the『Komadori Pavilion』couple that we will be going out for a few days and headed towards the dungeon.

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There was still some time until sunset when we arrived at the dungeon.
The plan was to arrive in the evening, stay overnight and go to the dungeon the next day.
This happened because Allen and Elena walked better than I expected. Their pace was fast with small steps.
There’s no need to hurry that much, I told them, but the two didn’t lower their pace. In addition, their stamina is better than that of an ordinary adult so we have arrived earlier.
Now then, what should we do?

The fourth dungeon, “Dungeon of Earth”.
A 15-floor underground dungeon with an earth attribute. A dungeon with relatively high capture rate.
The entrance to the dungeon is hollowed in a two-story large rock.
From there, a sloping road spreads out. It’s wide enough to fit three adult men.
The depths are not fully visible.

Spend a night here as planned or to enter the dungeon nearly……

「In」
「Go~」

While considering what to do, Allen and Elena exclaim.

「Is it really okay? Are you not tired?」
「「Is al~right」」

Since the two say they are okay, I decided to go inside. I will only watch their condition properly and take a break before they get fatigued.
I illuminate the surroundings with《Light》before descending. I can keep on the《Light》for one hour before having to cast it again. As it can only illuminate the surroundings in 1m radius, I locked hands with Allan and Elena and started walking.

「Looks like a normal tunnel, huh」

There is a hall further down. A hall that looks like a tunnel in a large mine. The walls and floor are made from earth, but it seems to be very sturdy as it's not easily damaged. In addition, it's wide enough to swing a sword in all directions. The route in the distance seems to be complicated as a maze, though.

The first straight path comes to an end quickly. It splits into two passages. Allen and Elena restlessly look at the passages.
Speaking of mazes, walking along one side of the wall will bring us to an exit (the previous path in this situation) without problems… what to do?
The Guild is selling the dungeon map, but it's only accurate up to the fifth floor so I didn't purchase it.
Ah, which reminds me, wasn't there a map function in the menu?
I open the window screen at once.
N~ there's no map while inside a dungeon. There's auto mapping function instead. It displays only the way we went.
But, with this, we won't lose our way no matter which road we go and we will be able to easily return back.
If that's the case… let's let the children choose the way.

「Allen, Elena. Which way do you want to go?」
「「? …… That way~」」

They point in the same direction at the same time.
Then, let’s go that way first!

[] [TOC] [Map] []

Chapter 13

Proceeding in the directions Allen and Elena have picked, we quickly found stairs leading below.
Looking at the map, this is possibly the shortest way.
In addition, the two children's opinion which way to take didn't differ even once.
They are demonstrating the twin power to its fullest.

Beshi.
Dokan.
Zuruzuru…
Batain.

Allen's and Elena's exploding kicks.
It gets blown off and crashes into the wall.
It slides to the ground just like that.
It ceased to breathe.

How many times did I see the exact same scene…
Un. There's no enemy! Hahaha.
Because the monsters in the Low Class dungeon aren't that strong, I let Allen and Elena deal with them as they see fit.
Thereupon, all Slimes, Ground Moles, Ground Spiders (Indeed, this being "Dungeon of Earth" the monsters that appear are mainly that of earth attribute) who appeared …… were defeated one by one.
For now, I let the kids run wild, but such training in the future, would it still be okay? Being strong is not a bad thing. Especially in this world where the average lifespan is shorter than on Earth.
They are still small, so it's okay, right? In Japan, they would be in pre-schoolers. Pre-schoolers should be playing vigorously, right?
Once they grow up a little more, I will start teaching them, or let them attend school! Everything would be all right then!

We have arrived at the 5th floor without an accident; there is a small room, so I decided to call it a day and camp there.

First, I clean their bodies with《Washing》. They are not that dirty, but keeping hygiene is good.
Next is the dinner preparation.
I take out portable stove magic tool. Maa~ it's similar to a tabletop electric cooking device. Although it's not running on electricity, but on fire magic stones.
I have found this magic tool while walking around the town. This was the only magic tool for a reasonable price. But, even if the price weren't reasonable, I would buy it on the spot because of the convenience.
I put a pot with soup on top of the magic tool and warm it up.
I asked the『Komadori Pavilion』boss if he could cook something for me and this is it. It's soup with a tomato base, lots of meat and various vegetables.
The sweetness and acidity are refreshing.
Then, I made a potato salad with a fresh bread I bought back in the town. Unfortunately, they didn't have a square bread, therefore I had to use a round one.
Un, seems good! Well then, itadakimasu.

After eating the dinner, it's preparations to sleep.
That being said, my sleeping posture is leaning on the wall while sitting wrapped in a blanket with two children clinging to my sides. The same as in Gaya Forest.
Normally, it would be necessary to set up a barrier with Barrier Stones. It's a defensive measure against both monsters and humans. Bandits for example.
Also, I'm afraid to say that nasty adventurers also exist. They would attack an unwatched place and steal all your belongings.
But, I'm the only one of us who can stand a watch. I have a feeling that my body would be able to go on without sleep for a few days, but I have no intention of trying it out.
It's all right. We will definitely wake up when a person with ill intent approaches us.
That being said, good night.

The next day, the second day.
When I wake up my eyes, Allen and Elena were already up and staring fixedly at my face while clinging to my arms as usual.

I fix my clothes and prepare a simple breakfast.
The menu is sausage and scrambled eggs, fresh bread with strawberry jam.
The sausage and eggs are quickly cooked. The strawberry jam is something Syl prepared for me, made in Japan.
There's a proper product information-like paper on the jar, but its contents are written with Aetherdia's letters. And, there is ***MADE IN JAPAN*** *written on it.*
Did Syl intentionally replace it? To be sensible to such degree……
Maa, we three gratefully consumed it.

We took a little break after the breakfast and commenced the capturing of the 5th floor.
We advanced smoothly just like on the first four floors without change.
The Dropped Items weren't too expensive, but the amount is significant.
There's no problem if you have a Magic Bag, but there are probably many low ranked adventurers who still don't have it. If that's the case, they would probably start sorting out their stuff and dispose of the rest. They probably think it's all right to dispose of it since the market price is low~ Particularly, this "Slime Jelly" which doesn't look like it has a use…
What is this used for? It's squishy and cool, it's pleasing to touch.
Can this be used for mattress or cushion? Doesn't it sound lovely? Yosh, let's try making it if I find time.
First of all,《Infinite Storage》may fertilize it, but I don't know its use so I will put it together with everything else.

Speaking of baggage, Allen and Elena are fundamentally empty-handed. I want to keep the things they have at them at minimum if they separate from me by any chance~ I don't have plans to get separated, and there is no problem to start looking for them if they do immediately, but things like money… water, and preserved food. And a knife would also be good to have~
But, all that packed in a bag would get in the way during a close combat…
Besides, it would be heavy~
Should I get some low-class Magic Bags for the kids? But, isn't it dangerous for children to carry expensive magic tools around?
Yosh! Let's ponder about this matter a bit more!

Beshi.
Dokan.
Zuruzuru…
Batain.

Ah, a wolf flew again.
The enemies are still lacking. We keep on advancing at steady pace.

◇◇◇

The capturing proceeds and we are currently on the 8th floor. We have captured half of the dungeon.
The quality of the monsters increased a little. An insect monster with a hard shell that Allen and Elena can't defeat in one hit has started appearing.
The kids have a bad affinity with insect monsters, unlike the usual animal type. Although they won't get defeated, they will hurt their bodies by hitting that hard shell over and over again, so I decided to take care of the insects myself.
In addition, the monsters have stopped appearing alone and started attacking in groups. From small groups of 2~3 up to a big group of around 10.
We don't have any problems, but the first obstacle for the young adventurers is most likely this 8th floor.

While advancing——

「*Uwa————!!*」

A cry echoes from ahead.

「*Please run a~way!!*」

The desperate cry was from a party of adventurers. A party of young men and women in their teens.
A group of monsters is chasing the party. Wolves, Horn Rabbits and Slicer Bats, tens of various monsters in a group.

「*Wa, hey! What are you doing!?*」

A young adventurer stops right after passing us and shouts at us in panic.
"I want to escape quickly" and "We should have left it alone" emotions were

transmitted to me from his expression.

「《Wind Cutter》」

When all people in my field of vision disappear, and all in front of me are monsters, I cast wind magic while emphasizing the magic power behind it.
Several wind blades pour on the monsters who changed the target on us.
Un, most of them got defeated.
However, a monster slips from within the cloud of dust. But, at that moment, Allen and Elena charge towards the monster and drive a kick into its body without reserve.

「Eeeeeeeeh———!!」

The young adventurers who witnessed that shout in disbelief.

[] [TOC] [Map] []

Chapter 14

「「Picked up~」」

Allen and Elena collect drop items and run up to me with their small hands full. They seem to properly remember what I was doing in the seven floors until now.

「Thank you. Are you unhurt?」

I receive the items and pat the two children's head who nod.

「Oniichan will go and have a talk with these people, can you two go and pick up more in the meantime?」
「「Un!」」

There are still many drop items the two weren't able to carry so when I request them to pick them up, the two energetically answer me. They look overjoyed. To think they would be so happy just because of my request, these children are seriously cute! I pass a jute bag to the kids, tell them to put the items in that and send them off.
Then, I turn around and look back at the boys and girls adventurers who were escaping.

「Now then, have you activated a trap?」
「We are terribly sorry!」

They are not prostrating as Syl normally does, but the boys and girls are bowing down enough that their body height halved.
They seem to understand correctly.

The adventurers have unspoken rules.
To explain it simply——

・The monster priority goes to the party/adventurer who attacked it first.
・Drop item belongs to the one who defeats the monster. However, if he leaves it without picking it up, it's considered as abandoned and other adventurers can pick it up without a complaint.
・Interfering is prohibited unless asked for help.

These are the unspoken rules.

In addition to these, there's one more important thing. Only this one unlike other is considered a crime.
That is——

・Monster scapegoating act.

It's considered the most vicious act.
The scapegoating act these boys and girls did——is a crime.
The act of running away from a monster and involving a nearby person on the way happened quite frequently in the past.
That is still not that bad.
What is even worse is, pulling an aggro and deliberately scapegoating another person. The case of where the scapegoat died are many. With the scapegoat dying, they will then defeat the wounded monster themselves.
Because these things occurred so frequently, it's now being treated as a crime.

「Maa, I understand you didn't do it on purpose」

These boys and girls probably ran away because they really felt in danger. The monsters weren't that strong, but these children couldn't handle it because there were dozens of them.
Besides, I wouldn't be so forgiving if they escaped after passing us, but they properly stopped and told us to run away. That earned them a good evaluation from me.

「…… Yes. There was a hidden room and when we opened it to take a look……」
「Hidden room, huh. That has triggered the defense mechanism… You seem to be reflecting on your mistake, so I won't pursue this matter anymore. I will overlook it this time, but be more careful in the future, okay?」

It's not like we suffered any damage, and they seem to be reflecting on it.
Therefore I won't noisily nag them anymore.
At any rate, to think Low-Class dungeon also has traps~
We have ignored hidden rooms on the way so far. Bottom floors of Low-Class dungeon surely don't have anything worthwhile, so we went without looking for them.

「「Many~!」」

Just when we finished speaking, Allen and Elena trotted over with bag full of materials.

「Thanks you. Are you not tired?」
「「We al~right」」

I receive the bag full of materials and pat the children's heads.

「「Ah! There~」」
「N?」
「Uwaaa! A Poison Spider!!」

Allen and Elena point at the ceiling while having their heads patted.
I look up and see a Poison Spider hanging there.
The boys and girls look towards the place Allen and Elena are pointing and make a fuss.
As the name suggest Poison Spider is a 1m dark red venomous spider. It doesn't have a lethal poison, but it's poison will inflict strong paralyzation.
This spider excels at stealth, it will bite a person from behind, once the person stops moving it will capture him/her in its thread, and it will bring the person back to its nest still alive.
The poison can be immediately detoxified if there are companions around, but if alone, the venomous bite will become fatal. Therefore, this monster is responsible for many adventurer fatalities.

「《Air Shot》」

I hit the Poison Spider hanging from the ceiling with magic. The crushed Poison Spider falls to the ground and turns into a drop item. The Poison Spider's drop item seems to be its poison. For some reason, it was already in a bottle when it fell to the ground.
Dungeon is really a mysterious place. Just where did this bottle appeared from……

「…… It was defeated immediately」
「N? The Poison Spider doesn't have that much fighting ability if you are careful of its stealth, right?」

「Nono, you can't defeat it that quickly. First, we can't even reach it!」
「Well, it's impossible with a sword, but don't you have someone who can use magic in the party? If you don't, you should have someone with a bow or throwing knives, right?」
「That is……」

There may not be anyone who can use magic by the swords hanging from everyone's waist. However, if done right, even these boys and girls should be able to defeat a Poison Spider.
Even if they can't beat it in one blow, it's possible to defeat the Poison Spider with a well-placed arrow or a knife.

「I don't see anyone carrying a bow which leaves throwing…… do you perhaps lack a long distance attack?」
「As expected, is that bad?」

Children of this age probably think that magic and bow is too dull compared to a sword.

「No. It's not like it's absolutely indispensable. But, I believe it will increase the broadness of attacks you can use. The offensive power may be certainly lower than that of a sword, but it has a potential to shoot stuff down just like I did earlier, and it's also usable to distract the opponent. Besides, you don't need to abandon your primary weapon with throwing knives. It's also all right to use stones instead of throwing knives」
「…… Stones. I see!」
「Arrows and Throwing Knives are consumables, after all. Purchasing them at lower ranks is hard」

Arrows and Throwing knives are cheap but fragile. They may get ruined after a single use. Their costs would then start piling up.
Of course, there are more durable ones, but they are something that low ranked adventurers can't possibly get.
In comparison, stones on the ground are free. Depending on the size and hardness, a stone can become a satisfactory weapon.

「Ah, again~」
「Kita~」

Allen and Elena found another Poison Spider on the ceiling.

「Allen will throw~」
「Elena too~」
「N?」

Saying that, both Allen and Elena pick up a baseball size stone from the ground…… and throw.

——*Dokon!*

Eh!?
A loud noise of a direct hit resounds.
It doesn't look like it was enough to finish it, but the Poison Spider falls on the ground while twitching.

「「It fell~!」」

『Eeeh!?』

The boys and girls let out shocked voices at the sight of the Poison Spider getting hit by children younger than them.
Ah, this reminds me, the two have a throwing skill… it also seems to have a reasonable proficiency.
The twitching Poison Spider stops moving and transforms into a drop item. It died.

「These children……」

The boys and girls are in a great shock.
Un. Allen and Elena are extraordinary. You must not compare yourselves to them!

We parted from the boys and girls who returned to the surface and resumed the capturing.

Chapter 15

We have advanced smoothly through 8~10 floors with few short breaks.
The number of people coming in and out on these floors steadily decreased, and the hidden rooms and treasure chest we discovered are scarce.
The contents of the treasure chests were Low-grade Stamina and Mana potions.
Stamina potion is a magic potion that replenishes stamina while Mana potion is used by mages to recover magical power. They are the game's standard items.
They come in Low grade, Medium grade, High grade and Special grade, the quality and amount of recovery increases the higher the grade is.
The ones we obtained are of Low Grade so their recovery power isn't that great.
But, magic potions itself are expensive goods and are precious drops for adventurers in this dungeon.

「「That way~」」

I'm afraid to say that I have come all the way here without being tired or feeling a loss of magic power, though…
Maa~ there might be a time where they will be useful so let's set them aside without selling them.

Speaking of magic potions, a magic potion that cures diseases and wounds, a Healing potion also exists on Aetherdia. In addition to drinking, it can also be apparently used directly on the wound. Furthermore, potions used for detoxifications and potions that temporarily increase physical strength also exist.
There also is a secret medicine among the Healing potions. Maa, you won't be able to see one easily, though. The secret medicine can heal any incurable diseases and apparently even restore lost limbs. I'd rather connect the torn off arm than grow a new one……
N~ I want to see it, I don't want to see it… a complicated feeling.

The items in my possessions are generic drugs like medicine for cold and stomach medicine, but I don't have any Healing potions. I think there won't be any problems since I have a Healing magic, but I would like to get my hands on one just in case.

「「Here~」」

Oh! The two children found stairs leading to the next floor.

The moment we descended on the 11th floor, a Wild Ape has leaped towards us.

「Kiiiii――!」

Wild Ape is an orangutan-like monster.
Despite the sudden attack, Allen and Elena pour kicks on the Wild Ape straight away.
The Wild Ape crashes into a wall. The Wild Ape who was suddenly flung against a wall in counterattack looks dumbfounded.
Allen and Elena pursuit that momentary opening. The defenseless Wild Ape ceased to breathe under the twins' kicks.

It's neck evidently snapped……

The Wild Ape's corpse disappears and leaves behind a drop item. It's Wild Ape's fur. It's a good thing for a Low Class dungeon. But, this much is not enough to make equipment of it. Let's deposit it in《Infinite Storage》for now.

Still, the perception and hand-to-hand combat sense of the twins is terrific. They advance without getting lost and can discover monsters quickly.
Even though no one taught them, even I who know close to nothing about Martial Arts can understand their splendid movements. They are most likely moving on instinct.

I'm genuinely happy that some influential person does not shelter these two. The thing Syl might have been worried is this.
However, I have a certain feeling that I'm also taking advantage of them, but is that all right……

「「Kita~」」

Allen and Elena discovered another monster. A snake monster, Clay Snake has appeared.

「Oh, wait a moment!」

I stop Allen and Elena who were going to leap at the enemy.
The two obediently stop moving and fixedly stare at my face.

「That thing has a poison in its fangs, let me take care of it」

That's right, the Clay Snake has a minuscule amount of poison in its fangs.
Similarly to the Poison Spider from before, it's a monster I want the bare handed children to avoid fighting with.
When the two nod in affirmation, I shoot out the《Wind Cutter》.
Of course, it was an instant kill. The dropped item is Clay Snake's skin.
As soon as I pick it up, another monster appears. Three Giant Bees, honey bees the size of an adult.

「Be careful of the stinger」
「「Wa~i」」

When I remind the children to be careful, they cheerfully reply.
Un. Although it was only one word, the two's vocabulary steadily increasing. It's a good thing.

The Giant Bee is a monster with considerably nimble movements. They take full advantage of their aerial movements to attack Allen and Elena. Allen and Elena smoothly dodge that and counterattack. However, the Giant Bees retreat to the air where the two can't reach.
Allen and Elena who have unusually hard time turn in pursuit of the Giant Bees.

Un. It's a game of tag no matter how I look.
I intend to help as soon as it becomes dangerous, but how can I destroy the spectacle of the twins having fun?

Oh! They have been chasing it individually at first, but the two now move in a pincer attack.
Elena chances while Allen sneaks around to the Giant Bee's destination. They safely brought it down the first one.
Cooperation is the twin's field of expertise. They can determine their roles just with an eye contact.
They knock down the second one immediately. N? …… I feel like they didn't make an eye contact.
These two, are they actually using telepathy to communicate? The cooperation

was so splendid it forced me think that.

「「Defeated~」」

Allen and Elena had a hard time dealing with the bees at first, but in the end, it took them less than ten minutes to deal with the three bees. They pick up the bee's drop items and trot over to me.

「You worked hard」

I receive the drop items while praising and patting the twins' heads. The dropped items are 1 Bee Stinger and 2 jars of Honey.
Oh, it's honey! A very precious item on Aetherdia which lacks sweetness.
Of course, the sugar is also being sold, but its slightly higher in price. The price for one kg is around several thousand yen. It's around ten times more expensive than in Japan?
It's enough to be called a luxury for a commoner. You would be able to stay a night at an inn with two meals at that price.
Because I have an absolutely higher income than I have had in Japan, I can buy anything if I say so myself.
However, I shouldn't do that. I'm hesitant about buying it. The quality isn't that good.
Therefore, I can't help, but keep on thinking about getting a normal honey……
Moreover, the honey inside the jars have a beautiful golden color and look incredibly delicious.
Un, if we meet more Giant Bees, let's take an aggressive stance against them!

We encountered Giant Bees immediately even without searching. Despite there being five of them this time, Allen and Elena defeated them right away.
Isn't their learning ability amazing? I thought that, but since there's nothing wrong about it, I decided to leave it alone.
The drop items are 1 Giant Bee's Wing, 2 Stingers and 2 Jars of Honey.
Doing well, so smooth!

Nevertheless…… is there a problem that the twins defeated 70% of the encountered monsters……? The monsters I defeated are only poison monsters and hard-shelled insects, and I also acted when we encountered big groups.

Allen and Elena dealt with everything else.
If I had to say, the two are advancing while fighting. But, they seem to be having fun, so I let them dealt with it unless it gets dangerous.
However, if other people saw it, won't they say that I'm working the children too much? Because I'm just watching from behind while the two children fight.
Shouldn't I be more responsible as a guardian? It's not like I'm forcing them to do it, so it's okay, right?

「「Found it~」」

The two found the stairs to the next floor. Do I rely on them too much?

[] [TOC] [Map] []

Chapter 16

Good morning.
Today is the third day since we entered the dungeon.
We have crisply advanced through the 12th floor yesterday and were able to find the stairs to the 13th in the evening. I have decided to stay the night before proceeding further.
Therefore, we are currently staying at the entrance to the 13th floor.

The plan was to head back to the town in three days, but I think we can capture the dungeon today or tomorrow if everything goes smoothly.
I have heard that once we defeat the boss on the 15th floor, we can use a transfer device that would take us directly to the first floor.
In the worst happens and we are not able to defeat the boss, we should be able to get back on the day before the next request.

Having decided to keep on advancing, I prepare the breakfast first.
Today's menu has been decided.
I beat eggs, sugar, and milk together to create an egg wash, soak the bread that was within the food Syl prepared for me in it. I melt butter in a pre-heated pan, put the bread in the pan and carefully cook both sides.
Un. It's the French toast.
I pour the honey we obtained yesterday over the dish. U~n, it smells nice.
Well then, itadakimasu.

Oh! Yummy!
I understand the deliciousness with just a bite. Even though there's intense sweetness, it's not too heavy. Giant Bee's honey…… delicious. Indeed, this is worth obtaining by all means.
Allen and Elena also seem to be pleased with it. They are eating in a trance.

After I had observed Allen and Elena eat for a while, I wanted to resume my meal, but a group of Giant Bees suddenly appeared from within the passage. The prey came to us on their own.

「I will take care of it, you two eat up」

I stuff my cheeks with French toast, inform the two while trying to chew it down, stand up and face the Giant Bees.

「《Air Shot》」

First, I aim at the group and shoot a sphere of air.
I was able to shoot down several of them, but more than a half were able to avoid because of their nimbleness.

「《Wind Cutter》」

I shoot several wind blades this time.
The Giant Bees got shot in succession by the wide blades.
Yosh, I was able to defeat them all this time.
After beating all the Giant Bees, I went over and collected all drop items rolling on the floor.
Most of them were wings and stingers, but I was able to obtain two more jars of honey.
While returning to continue my breakfast, another monster emerged from the passage.
Are? It's another Giant Bee. Let's clean up for the time being.
But, why do they keep on appearing?

I take a look at our breakfast and suddenly realize. Did the bees smell the sweet scent of honey and came over?
Oh! Could the Giant Bees be lured out by any chance?
It may be worth trying it out.

After the meal, we started the 13th-floor capture right away.
While doing so, I carried an opened jar of honey in my hand.
Then——

「Tou!」「Ho!」「Nsho!」「Yaa!」

As a result, the fact that the Giant Bees are attracted to the scent of honey has been established.
They took the bait! A seriously big catch.
Giant Bees assault us in sequence surprising me in the process. This completely

exceeded my expectations!
Of course, the Giant Bees are knocked down by Allen and Elena who fight them joyfully without getting exhausted.

「「H~on, h~on」」

Dozens of Giant Bees have appeared, but they were all defeated.

「「E~y, e~y」」

It seems that honey has ultimately become Allen's and Elena's favorite, their mood soars with every discovered jar.
They make an incredibly nice smile each time they pick a jar up. That's too cute!
Was that just now a Honey theme song? They make noises resembling singing while picking up the drop items, but that is also undisputedly cute!

「「Honey, was there~!」」

The Twins trot over to me with a smile and arms full of drop items. Because that was also too cute, I plentily patted their heads.
They should be my siblings based on age, but I'm just like a foolish parent since the beginning……

In the end, after a half a day of honey collecting, we smoothly advanced up to the end of the 14th floor where we found the stairs to the 15th floor.
Honey? Of course, we secured plenty!

Chapter 17

Fourth day in the dungeon.
We advanced through the 15th floor's complex design smoothly and arrived at a massive double door made from soil.
It's finally time to challenge the boss, but this is the boss room, right? It indeed has a strange atmosphere.
I will be embarrassed if this doesn't turn out to be the boss room……

While thinking so, I touch the heavy door and slowly open them——*Gigigi*, the door opens, and I face the room.
A spacious dome-like room is inside. The size is comparable to a small concert arena.
I lead Allen and Elena by their hands and step inside——*Gatan*, the door behind us shuts with a loud noise.
The behind shines when I look back at the closed door.
Looking back forward, light emits from the center of the room. And then, after several seconds when the light weakens, a beast's roar echoes around the room.

「Sha————————!!」

Approximately 7-8 meters long worm appears at the place where the light emerged from. Un, it's that. A gigantic earthworm.
I see, after a fixed period of time passes, the door automatically closes and then the boss comes out.

「Allen, Elena. You two wait here」

The two nod in affirmation and I start running towards the worm.

「《Wind Cutter》」
「Sha~!」
「Oops」

I shoot magic towards the worm as a preliminary test. The worm avoids, and it throws its whole body towards me.
I twist my body and evade the worm's large body by running to a different direction.

This worm is unexpectedly fast for its size. It doesn't look like a monotone magic will work against it.
Now then, how should I defeat this fellow——while in thought……

「Sha~!」

The worm shoots《Sand Ball》at me.

「Hee~, then I will…《Air Shot》」

I shoot magic too and offset the opponent's magic.

「Next is……《Wind Arrow》」

I shoot countless wind arrows straight ahead. If monotone magic is no good, then I just have to fire a spell it won't be able to evade.
Un? That's right, it's a simple brute force approach. I don't need overcomplicated tactics.
The trajectory of《Wind Arrow》that fly straight ahead is easy to read, but it compensates with speed. Moreover, I shot dozens of them at once, as expected, the worm with its massive body size can't avoid everything even if it can move quick.

「Sha————!!!!!」

As planned, the《Wind Arrows》pierce the worm's body, it raises a suffering cry and wriggles in pain.

「This is the over!《Wind Arrow》」

I have used the chance it wriggled in pain and gathered a lot of magical power.

「!!! Sha———……」

Doshin, the worm collapsed to the ground with its whole body hollowed.
It's over.
The《Wind Arrows》pierced its body, the worm's body faintly shines, its corpse disappears, leaving behind drop items.
After surprisingly defeating the worm with ease,"Low Class dungeon's boss was just something like that" is what came to my mind first. I wonder if the power bestowed upon be 's too big, I'm very troubled.
I mean, all magic I used are general spells with about 50 proficiency.

Maa, it's better than fighting a life-threatening battle. I gather the drop items while thinking such.

The drop items are a baseball sized yellow magic stone, Worm Meat, and several worm fangs.
…… Earthworm meat. Worm Meat is a high-class ingredient? Uun… but, I don't want to eat something like that…… I will collect it for now, but do I sell or hoard it?
Ah! But, if I sell it, would it expose that we captured the dungeon? Ah, but, would the Guild staff be able to see it on my Guild Card?

＝＝＝＝＝

【Dungeon Record】Fourth Dungeon "Earth" 15 floors captured.
【Title】Captor of a Low Class Dungeon

＝＝＝＝＝

When I took out the Guild Card to confirm, it was well listed there. Un, this is not okay. I will get exposed when I receive a Request……
The capture itself is not the problem. The problem is that we have captured the dungeon only in a few days… First of all, let's keep quiet by not receiving any requests for a while!
That means the earthworm meat is getting stored inside the《Infinite Storage》!

When I came to a conclusion, *tosun*, I felt a light impact on my legs. Allen and Elena rushed to me and clung to my legs before I noticed.

「Good?」
「Over?」
「Thank you for waiting. It's over. You are not injured, right?」
「「Al~right」」

I was careful not to shoot magic into the children's direction, but I confirm to make sure. Un, no problems here.
Speaking of which, what about the records on the two's Guild Cards?
Thinking that, I take out Allen's and Elena's Guild Cards to check, and find that the two have the same records properly listed on their cards.

The condition seems to be to reach this floor regardless of actually damaging the boss.

——*Gogogogogo.*

A door suddenly appears on the opposite side of the room.
After putting the cards away, we passed through the door and entered a room with a crystal on a pedestal.
This seems to be the transfer device. We can get back to the 1st floor by touching the crystal.

Switching my gaze from the transfer device, I find a nicely decorated treasure chest at the back of the room. This room which opened after defeating the boss——has apparently a small chance for a treasure chest to appear.
Meaning that this is a complimentary gift?
It doesn't seem to be locked, and it doesn't look like there's a trap. I open it and see five red marble-like things inside.
Appraising it——

＝＝＝＝＝

【Exploding Flame Sphere】
An exploding sphere that will activate after pouring magical power inside and leaving a fixed proximity of the caster.

＝＝＝＝＝

This has… a grenade-like feeling to it? Instead of pulling a pin, you pour magical power inside, right? It's an extraordinarily dangerous smelling magic tool.
… But, it's power is worrisome. Should I try it somewhere once?

I take out the five spheres from the treasure chest and face the transfer device again after confirming that the treasure chest vanished.
All you have to do to activate the transfer device is to touch the crystal. Because the person that are holding onto the individual who touches the crystal transfer together, there is no need to leave anyone behind so I have decided to hold Allen and Elena in my arms and let them touch the crystal.

「Yosh. Then, touch that crystal」
「「Ha~i」」

As Allen and Elena touch the crystal at the same time, I start feeling a little dizzy. We moved to a familiar looking place at the same time.
Looks like we safely arrived at the hall at the 1st floor. I check the map just in case and confirm that we are indeed on the 1st floor.
The dizziness was surely due to the transfer as I'm already feeling well.
Confirming that there's no problem with Allen and Elena, I put the two down and lead them outside.

N~… outside!
The wind brushing my cheeks feels very nice.

Like this, we were able to capture a dungeon for the first time safely.

Chapter 18

It was just about noon when we got out of the dungeon. We ate lunch in front of the dungeon and set on grassy plains to return back to the town.
And then, I notice a snow-white dog fur? No…… wolf? 10 meters in front of us. Isn't that wolf sitting in a proper posture while vigorously wagging its tail? Is it someone's pet or a monster, a quite worrying scene.
If I had to say…… a pet? Its actions are that of a perfectly trained pet dog……
Also, Allen and Elena are not cautious of it at all.
After thinking if we should intercept or avoid it, I appraise it just in case——

＝＝＝＝＝

【Name】
【Race】Fenrir［Takumi's Contracted beast］
【Age】5
【Level】25
【Skills】
Water Magic | Ice Magic | Claw Slash | Evasion
Shrinking | Night Vision | Presence Detection

＝＝＝＝＝

……
……
……

…… Un, it's a monster. Moreover, a Fenrir. It's an S-Rank monster……
Fenrir is water and ice attributed wolf with quick movements, strong claws, and fangs which likes to fight at a close range. An awfully strong monster, normally…
It can't be seen as a monster while wagging its tail like that.
But, this, what's going on……
My contracted beast, what does that mean? I don't remember making any contracts, though??

When I check my status just in case, the skills【Monster Handling】【Taming】and【Monster Contractor】suddenly appeared.

I have no knowledge about this. This must be that. It's Syl, right?

I can't leave it as it is, so when I beckon it to come over, the Fenrir's tail wagging increases and it runs over. And then, when it comes to my feet, it sits down again.
Un. Good doggy.
Nevertheless, looking at it up close, it's huge. Even after it sat down, my line of sight nearly didn't change…… Is it bigger than a cow?
The children would be completely squashed during a play. Even I'm in danger……

While observing the Fenrir in front of me, the Fenrir was also *jii*~ staring at me with its blue eyes.

「You are a Contracted beast?」
『Wafu』

It replied to me when I asked.
It seems to understand what I say. If that's the case——

「Hand」
『Wafu』
「Second」
『Wafu』
「Down」
『Wafu』

Un, flawless.
It seems to have received general training.

『Wafu!』
「N?」

The Fenrir barks, drawing my attention back to at it as if it was expecting something.
What? But, a typical pet dog would be like this, right?

「…… Yoshyosh?」

When I pat its head, it snuggles up to me comfortably. Seems like I was right. A

complete pet dog!? You, are you really an S-Rank monster?

While patting it, the hem on both sides of my clothes are being pulled. Allen and Elena are pulling on the hem.

「What's the matter?」
「「……」」

When I look down to match their eyes, the two lift my hands up, turn my palms upwards and put their little hands on it.

……
……
……
… N?

「…… Hand?」
「「Wan!」」
「~~~!!」

What is this cuteness!!!
Because they were too cute, I ended up hugging the two unconsciously.

Hand!! What!? Imitating the Fenrir!?
Eh? Jealousy? Where they perhaps jealous because I paid attention to the Fenrir!?
I was troubled about treating the Fenrir as a pet, but they imitated it!! That's seriously adorable, though!? I must pay full attention to those two!

I squeeze Allen and Elena in my embrace so tightly they *kya, kya* happily, while the Fenrir rubbed its face against us and began to lick.

In the end, Allen, Elena and the Fenrir ended up mutually hugging each other.

Ah, because leaving a contracted beast alone in a place like this is impossible, I named the Fenrir Joule[1], put Allen and Elena on its back and set towards the town.

The town walls are visible. We have arrived at the town before it got dark. There, I decided to take Joule into my shadow.

Thanks to Dark Magic, contracted beasts can enter the shadow of the user and be summoned back if necessary.
Unlike Tamed monsters, Contracted beasts are not required to always accompany you. That is the strength of Contracted beasts, is what I think.

Like this, I can walk around with S-Rank Joule without attracting unnecessary attention.
Allen and Elena were reluctant, but it would definitely get noisy if we walk with Joule around, right?
It seems it can become small as a puppy with its【Shrinking】skill, but because I have no collar, it's better like this today.
I better prepare a collar soon. While thinking so, we entered the town.

[] [TOC] [Map] []

Footnotes

1. I'm not sure about the Fenrir's gender yet, but Joule is a female name according to Google ↩

Chapter 19

After entering the town, we went straight to the temple first. Of course, it's to talk with Syl.

(Syl, you here~?)
(Uwa————————n!! Takumi-sa———n!!)

Uwa, what happened!?
As soon as I spoke, I could hear Syl's outrageous crying voice.

(I"m glad…… gusun…… yo"u came to see meeee~)

Syl continues to cry.
Did I do something? N~? …… Nn!?

Ah! That thing!? That thing when I picked up Allen and Elena!
Which reminds me, I didn't contact him since then. I just had nothing to talk about, but does Syl think that I'm still angry!?
It's Syl, he's definitely under that impression.

(Ah~…… Syl, sorry…… I'm not mad at you so stop crying)
(Dullard… No…… I was in the wrong…… gusun)

Un. I can't tell him that I completely forgot about that matter……

(Look, don't cry. I'm at fault for not coming sooner, but I have something I'd like to ask you)
(Ye"s. What is it?)

I decided to stop worrying about the crying Syl and get down to business.

(Today, my contracted beast has appeared, but it was sent by you, right Syl?)
(Contracted beast?)
(The monster Fenrir. It's now in my shadow)
(Fenrir!? Ah———!! Water's! So cunning!! Even though I wanted to send one first!!)

Oya? Looks like it wasn't Syl. But, he seems to know the sender. They are related to a god, after all……

(Even though I told him to wait!! Mou! I will also send one immediately!!)
(Nono, wait a moment! Before that, by “Water’s” you meant that the one who send it is the Water God-sama?)
(More precisely, the Water God’s retainers. It definitely was the Nagas. It looks like they wanted to express their gratitude. I’m also looking after many other things for you. I will send it now)

Before the excited Syl could do something I stopped him and confirmed the sender of Joule for the second time.
Water God… It was from his retainers.

——*Piron*♪

Moreover, they sent items.

Gratitude…… No, it’s definitely about Allen and Elena, but is this all right? I thought it would be『Water God』because Allen and Elena possess water skills, but…
Although he didn’t give a detailed explanation, is it all right for him to get exposed by himself?
Would it be better just to ignore it from now on? I can figure it out from Water God’s retainers, but Syl hasn’t realized yet…

When I confirm the items that were transferred to me, the item list got absurdly long.
Even though I just skimmed through it, isn’t this full of treasures!
This is more than I expected.

(Is it all right to receive that much?)
(Yes, please accept it. The Water Nagas went out in high spirits to search for the next item, so I think they will bring more to me again. I will send it to you that time!)
(Eh? Next? Why!?)

Nono! This much is already enough!? Don’t I have enough to be considered a millionaire?

(I have properly received their feelings! More than this is a bit!)
(Why? Please, accept it without hesitation. It's something that was originally crammed in a warehouse anyways. I'm just sorry that I could drag out only this. Ah, even though it was crammed there's no problem with the condition!)

That is not the problem here. I am not worried about the condition!?
The items can be preserved in the《Infinite Storage》, I'm not worried about the preservation technique of gods!

In the first place, isn't the sense of values of gods wrong? They surely don't need many things… Besides, a god with a sense for money seems somewhat unpleasant……
Ah~, nevertheless, aren't the items I received offerings to a god? Is that all right?
No, it's okay, right…… the god himself is giving it to me……
Un, I would feel bad investigating further.

(Syl, I'm thankful, but I won't be able to use it if I receive more)
(It's all right! It's something we completely forgot about after not touching it for several hundreds of years! It would definitely find more use with Takumi-san!)

Syl starts talking with a scarily refreshing face.
Forgot!? Aren't you too cruel!? To whom? Of course, to the people that made the offering.
You are receiving their feelings properly? Maa… in that case.
But, that has nothing to do with me accepting it or not. Eh, I won't receive a divine punishment? What is this… are you threatening me!?

In the end, I was forced to give up.
To lose a quarrel with Syl, I feel somehow disappointed in myself……

(Well then, all that's left is my Contracted beast!)

Tsk! He didn't forget.
Because it's Syl, I was expecting him to forget.

(I have Joule already, it's all right)
(Why!? If you have it, your battle force will increase, you can even use it for traveling! It's convenient!

(No, it certainly is convenient and cute, right? But, taking care of animals is hard?)

Although I still don't know what it takes, if they keep on increasing would be a bit…

(It's all right! There's no problem even if you lead the Contracted beast alone. Feeding is not necessary, all you have to do is to let it play outside occasionally! You can walk around with it when it's in its small, pet form. Ah! That being the case, you will need a collar)

S-Rank monster as a pet…… it certainly has a friendly character and doesn't look like a monster……
Collar, huh… I would like it if its flexible, but you see…

(But~……)
(Then, I will return that Fenrir to water! And then I will send a new child to Takumi-san!)
(Why did it become like that)
(That's because Takumi-san is my family, you know! You should have a wind attributed Contracted beast, not a water attributed one!

Syl's voice became tearful.
Does he dislike me having a different attributed Contract beast?

(Ah~ I understand! I understand already! I will leave it to you)
(Yes! Leave it to me! The water one is a dog, so I will send a cat? Or perhaps a bird? Ah! I will send it tomorrow so, could you go outside the town then?)
（Alright）

As Syl said, our battle force will increase, it won't become a nuisance, and it concerns Syl's dignity as the Wind God, I should just accept.
With my acknowledgment, Syl starts choosing the Contracted beast.

(What should I pick~ Would one for traveling be better?)
(Syl?)
(No, will scouting be more useful? N~————)
(O~i)

…… He isn't listening.

Maa, I asked what I wanted to ask… Oh, well.

(Then, see you later)

Looks like my words don’t reach Syl who is happily choosing the Contracted beast. Because it couldn’t be helped, I said the greetings for my own sake and left the temple.

[] [TOC] [Map] []

Chapter 20

The next day, we left through the south gate and arrived at a prairie. Because we came without visiting the Guild, I'm in a complete whole picnic mood.
Allen and Elena are already chasing Joule around the meadows.

——*Piron*♪

I was relaxing while watching the kids play. And then, I heard the sound I already got used to recently.
Then, a shadow of an animal entered my vision.
Are? There are two?
Doesn't it say they are both my Contracted beasts when I appraise them?

＝＝＝＝＝

【Name】
【Race】Thunderhawk [Takumi's Contracted beast]【Age】3
【Level】20
【Skills】
Lightning Magic | Beak Peck | Flight | Surprise Attack
Farsight | Night Vision | Area Investigation

＝＝＝＝＝

The Thunderhawk is a small hawk with gold-colored feathers.
It manipulates Lightning magic, and its quick movements itself are that of lightning, it's an A-Rank monster.
Even though I said small, it's around 30cm tall. Is it just barely able to stand on my arm?
As a test, I display my arm horizontally, before long, the Thunderhawk who was circling above me lands on my arm.
These doesn't seem to be any problem. However, its nails unexpectedly cut into my arm. I'm wearing a leather jacket, so it doesn't hurt, but would an arm cover that Hawkers use necessary in the future?

The second beast who came along is already rubbing its head against my stomach while emitting a rumbling noise from its throat.

＝＝＝＝＝

【Name】
【Race】Celestial Tiger [Takumi’s Contracted beast]【Age】5
【Level】25
【Skills】
Wind Magic | Flight | Claw Slash | Evasion
Shrinking | Night Vision | Presence Detection

＝＝＝＝＝

It’s a tiger…… a white tiger with blue eyes. Celestial Tiger is an S-Rank monster. A monster which can manipulate the wind and run in the sky freely. It’s said that Celestial Tigers can pass even through devastating storms.
Its size is similar to Joule.

Syl was torn between a cat and a bird…… It’s a bird. Thunderhawk is definitely a bird. The Celestial Tiger is…… well, it certainly is a feline, right?
However, I didn’t think he would send me both.

I named the two new additions immediately. The Celestial Tiger is Feat and the Thunderhawk is Bolt.
Then, I retrieve the items from《Infinite Storage》that I received from Syl. There was a hill when I took it all out.
Seems like Syl prepared quite a lot.

He said he would prepare a collar, but it’s not just that, there’s also a pendant, a bracelet, and a ring.
A mountain of materials. Detailed embroidery, leather items, and even metal armor.
From simple to cute and gorgeous clothes. Various items that could support every hobby you may want to do.
Furthermore, it’s flexible to the degree that every person and even beasts would be able to use it.
The same old lavish hospitality…

「「Sparkly~」」

Before I noticed, Allen and Elena returned to me and looked at decorations in their hands.
…… Are? Wait… a moment……
These are jewels!? All these stones are jewels!? I thought they were Magic stones, but I was obviously wrong!
Sapphire, ruby, emerald, diamond!?
The items Allen and Elena were looking at were all made with gorgeous jewels.
Of course, it's sparkly~ then!

No~ that seriously surprised. It was a jaw-dropping surprise.
More than a practical use, this would have an artistic value, right? It's that. The rich people attach it to their pets to brag about their superiority thing……
For Joule and others? Nonono, nai wa~ Anyway, I decided to put things that didn't look necessary right now away.

I like More simple, or rather more modest design~.

「N~… this is good」

＝＝＝＝＝
【Collar of Nullification】
A collar with a (medium) abnormal status resistance.
＝＝＝＝＝

What caught my eye is a smooth leather belt with a silver embroidery and a large magic stone. The effect it has is good. Let's use this. There seems to be more than one.
A blue magic stone for Joule. I then put a collar with a green magic stone on Feat, confirmed the collars' sizes, and made them both shrink.

「Un. Seems all right」

The collar properly shrank with the body. Magic tools are seriously convenient~

「「Wanwan!?」」
『Kyan!』

「「Nya~ nya~!?」」
『Na~u』

Suddenly, Allen and Elena got surprised at Joule's and Feat's small appearances and imitated them to ensure that they are Joule and Feat.
Joule and Feat properly replied to Allen and Elena's call.
I really wanted to take a photo of the scene of two children playing with two animals, but I don't have a camera, so I gave up. How regrettable…

Pulling myself together, I pick the next item.

「Ah, this may be good」

＝＝＝＝＝
【Strong Arm Bracelet】
A bracelet with (small) physical strength increasing effect.
＝＝＝＝＝

What caught my attention next are golden bracelets. An increase in offensive ability is good. I took the small bracelet to Joule's and Feat's forepaw, and it shrunk to fit their small sizes.

Joule and Feat should be good with this. I decided to find a magic tool for Bolt next.

＝＝＝＝＝
【Pendant of Nullification】
A pendant with a (medium) abnormal status resistance.
＝＝＝＝＝

＝＝＝＝＝
【Bracelet of the Gale】
A bracelet with (small) speed increasing effect.
＝＝＝＝＝

These two?
I put the pendant and bracelet on Bolt immediately.
Will his balance worsen if I put it only on one leg? Thinking that, I let Bolt fly in the sky once with the magic tool on.
Ah~…… Un, doesn't seem to be a problem. Bolt smoothly flies in the sky.
He comes back, lands on my shoulder and sings『Pii』while rubbing the top of its head against my cheek. Looks like he likes it.

When I finished choosing magic tools for the three beasts, I looked at Allen and Elena who were staring at me while carrying Joule and Feat in their arms.
They looked so jealous the whole time I was choosing the tools…… Joule and others have matching tools.
Is this good? Nono, this is not a choker, but a collar. You two can't wear this, okay!?
Eeh!? Don't feel so down…… I will choose something for Allen and Elena right away, so wait a moment.

「Here Allen, Elena. How about this?」

I showed the two the magic tools for our use I found after I looking for magic tools for the beasts.

＝＝＝＝＝
【Angel's Pendant】
A pendant with a (medium) magic attack resistance effect.
＝＝＝＝＝

＝＝＝＝＝
【Tough Ring】
A ring with a (small) physical attack resistance effect.
＝＝＝＝＝

＝＝＝＝＝
【Trackign Ring】
A ring which indicates the location of the wearer on the map.
＝＝＝＝＝

A wing pendant made out of silver on a leather strap. I put rings on both sides of the pendants and tie it around Allen and Elena's necks.

In Allen's and Elena's case, defenses were the first choice.
In addition, a tracking ring. This is a magic tool that functions as a GPS, which reflects on my map. This was the only magic tool that was standing out.
Syl must have intentionally prepared this, so I know their location even if we get separated.

「「Ehehe~」」
「You like it?」

「「Un!」」

Allen and Elena lift their pendants and joyfully stare at it.

[] [TOC] [Map] []

idle talk 2

「Fuu」

After sending the selected Contracted beast to Takumi-san, I sigh and rest on the sofa.
I'm relieved that this will reduce Takumi-san's burden by a little bit.

A human that died because of me.
A soul that was excluded from the circle of reincarnation after passing away.
Although I didn't do it on purpose, even though it was a complete accident on my part, his cursing, and absurd demands, as the one responsible I was fully prepared to them.
He, however, maintained a calm attitude and inquired about his future. He really is an able youth.

For those reasons, I placed my hopes in him.

If it's him———

◇◇◇

『Children of Water God』

The Twins Takumi-san named Allen and Elena.
Their father is our brethren, Windell. Their mother is an Aetherdian woman of human race. It's unfortunate, but the mother died giving birth.
As expected, the mother's body couldn't hold giving the birth to god's children.
Still, the children were born safely.

The children splendidly inherited the Water God's features.
They inherited the azure hair and golden eyes, but the problem is their power.
Those children are hiding preposterous potential.
When they were still babies, their instincts took over, and they destroyed the container in self-defense. Thanks to that, most of their power fell asleep in the depths of their bodies.

N? You ask if it's possible for a child to be born between a god and a human?
If I have to decide between if it's possible or not…… it's is. The probability is

one/several hundred billion, though. Moreover, the possibility of the child inheriting the god's power is even lower.
Therefore, Allen and Elena are really rare existences.
Thanks to their power being dormant, I'm relieved that they are not recklessly running wild.
But, they are in a condition where they can explode at any given time…… If that happens, the nearby town, country…… no, Aetherdia itself will be in danger.
They were in such a state.

However, I'm the Wind God.
The children are Water God's children. Even if the world falls in danger, I can't get involved.
Generally, Water God's children would be taken to a Shrine, and everything would be resolved.
Resolved!

Despite that…… that fellow!!!

Water God no baka!
At a time like this, he went on a honeymoon with some women to another dimension. He never returned back since then!
Where did you gooo! At least tell me where you are going!! Baka~!

He's most likely so indulged in Aetherdia's women that he didn't even notice that his children were born.
Don't get carried out by women and do your work! Good grief! Water God's retainers are so pitiful.

Water God's retainers noticed the birth of the children. However, as retainers they don't have the authority to travel together with Water God's children.
When their mother died, and they became orphans, when their miser landlord sold them to a slave trader, when they were locked in a dark basement for months and years, they were not able to do anything, but watch.

At painful times like this, I met Takumi-san.

He became my, Wind God's retainer, but he's living on Aetherdia as a person.
If he meets Water God's children as a person, he won't become an interference in the domain. Therefore, I entrusted it to Takumi-sam.

It’s as you know after that.
Without explaining him anything, a surprise attack that won’t permit him to abandon the children. Although it can be said I used him, there was no other way.

As expected, he wasn’t able to leave the children alone. He begun taking care of the children after that.
The children embraced Takumi-san immediately. Although everything went according to my plan, I couldn’t help, but feel guilty.

(…… Was my existence a godsend?)

When he said that, I couldn’t refute……

(Speaking honestly, if only you told me right away instead of stealthily scheming…… is what I’m thinking)

I’m really sorry. That’s right, huh…… Takumi-san would take care of the children if I properly explained the situation to him, surely……

(It’s okay already. It’s okay to rely on you when I encounter trouble, right?)

Of course! I will do anything that’s within my power! Please rely on me more and more!

(I understand. I will be relying on you at that time. Laters)

——even thought you said that~
Uu~

Takumi-san hasn’t contacted me since then. He’s definitely mad at me……

◇ ◇ ◇

(Syl, you here~?)

Takumi-san has finally contacted me.

I’m glad…… I’m really glad~ I have thought you wouldn’t come anymore!
I have started crying tears of relief.

Hearing Takumi-san’s soothing story, a Fenrir apparently appeared as his

Contracted beast!
What a thing!
Even though I intended to send a Contracted beast to Takumi-san after receiving his permission! Because Takumi-san didn't contact me for a while, that talk was delayed.
Therefore, while I was patiently waiting, Water God's retainers selfishly send him a Contracted beast.

Why did this happen in the first place——

Water God's retainers regularly check the state of the children. They must have noticed Takumi-san's existence at that time. That must be it.
Then, they must have immediately investigated about Takumi-san. Thus, they should have noticed that Takumi-san is my retainer.
They then contacted me regarding the details. So, I explained. Everything that was included in my plan.
Water God's retainers were very grateful. They who couldn't do anything directly wanted to express gratitude in a way.

When they found out they could aid Takumi-san, they prepared a massive amount of items for him just like I did.
Our thinking is the same, after all…… if we are to support him openly, we should do it at least this much.

But, Takumi-san showed a disapproval to receiving the items. He said he already received enough.
But, Takumi-san, by taking care of those children, you are saving Aetherdia, you know? Besides, those items don't even reach the tip of an iceberg to us.
Therefore, you won't receive a divine punishment by accepting this much, you know?

Right, right, I will prepare the Contracted beast, okay?
Eh? You don't want it? For what reason!? It will definitely be useful to you, so accept it, please!

In the end, I received Takumi-san's approval.
I did my best!
I have to choose at once! I can't send a cowardly Contracted beast, after all.

Ah, that’s right. Even the Water God’s retainers should be able to grant the【Water Magic】skill.
Is that okay even though I am the Wind God? Of course, it is.
It’s always better to have more attributes, right? I want to ease Takumi-san’s burden even by a little bit. This much is nothing to me.

Now then, what should I give Takumi-san who I rolled up in this mess next?

[] [TOC] [Map] []

Chapter 21

Allen and Elena are showing off their pendants to Joule and the others.
They seem to be quite pleased with it.

I in the meantime check the contents of the《Infinite Storage》.
To be honest, I have been lost in the contents of the《Infinite Storage》myself.
Furthermore, a lot of things were added into it yesterday and today.
Therefore, I decided to organize before it's too late.

Let's confirm the newly obtained things first.
I view the screen with the list of items I received from Water God's retainers.
The characters lined up in a row. I confirm them one by one.

A lot of clothes and waterproof overcoats. Ah, there's even a tent! Then there's fish, seaweed and other marine materials and products.
Uwa, there's even a water bottle that can be refilled with magical power! Super~ convenient! Moreover, it's not just one, there are several of those tools, so generous.

Food, clothes, weapons, armors, medicine, magic tools, monster materials…… I assign each and every item in its classification.

I can even equip Allen and Elena because there were item bags! They may be a little concerned about it, but because it's a small belt pouch they will surely quickly get used to it.

What do I put in? Surely some money. Should I also make them carry their own Guild Cards? Next the water bottle… what about preserved food? Dried meat? Also, some dried fruits for snacks and some candy.
Extra clothes, an overcoat, and towel. Ah, a knife too. There are small folding knives, so this should be good. Materials…… mithril? Un, why not? Since we have enough! Let's not worry about it.

In the end, I filled it with items that 5-year-old child wouldn't really need, but…… oh, well?
I'm just worried that Allen and Elena would get targeted if they use the items in public.

「Allen, Elena」

I call the two and tie the magic bags to their belts.

「This is Allen's and this Elena's. Be sure not to lose it while going outside, okay?」
「「Ye~s」」

When entering the town, the two joyfully took out their Guild Cards from their magic bags.

◇ ◇ ◇

「……」
「Elena, what are you looking at? …… A general store?」

While walking back to the inn through the shopping district, Elena stops and *jii*~… she stares at a certain place. When I look at what's she's looking right at, I see a female oriented general store-like shop. I see girls choosing hair ornaments over at that shop.
As expected, a girl would have an interest in things like these.

「Elena, want to take a look?」

When I ask her, Elena's face starts alternating between the shop and me. After a short while, she lightly nods.
She seems to be interested, after all.

Various clothes and colored threads are on display in the shop. Rather than a general store, a handicrafts shop?
Still, it sparkled Elena's interest as she restlessly looked around the shop.
I also looked around the shop and found a white lace ribbon among the displayed products.

「Oneesan, can this ribbon be used as hair ornament as it is?」
「Yes, it can. They are all 50G each」

I thought it might be a handicraft that needs to be sewn on first, but it seems it can be used as it is.
Of course, I don't know because I have never bought something like that before.
Should I buy it?

The price…… un? Even if I ask, I don't know if it's cheap or expensive. It's the price of a single meal on Aetherdia. Is that a reasonable price?
Maa, we have more than enough to buy it so there's no problem.

「Elena, come here」

I crouch down near Elena, I bunch the hair behind her right ear together and put the ribbon in it.
Doesn't it have quite a nice feeling? The white ribbon makes Elena's azure hair flourish, I think it looks excellent.

「How nice, it suits her well. Oniisan, how about another one on the second side?」
「Yeah. I will take it」

Certainly, this hairstyle will look better on both sides.
While thinking that, I receive the exact same ribbon from the good at business lady and do the same on the left side.

「How nice, how nice. I have a mirror here Ojouchan, take a look」

The shop assistant lady takes out a hand mirror and presents it to Elena. Elena *jii~* at her hair… then her smile blossoms.

「You like it?」

When I ask, Elena gives me a light nod.
She seems to be pleased with it, let's buy more in different colors.

「Then, shall we buy some other colors? Elena, what colors do you like?」

When I look at Elena who faced the display of ribbons and chosen her favorite colors——

She chose a green and black ribbons and picked them up.
I thought she would definitely pick a pink or red, but that wasn't the case.

「You like that one?」
「Un!」
「… N~ Elena, I think that color won't go too well with your hair color, though?」
「This! Oniichan's color!」

My color? Certainly, it's close to my hair and eye color……

「She really loves Oniisan, I see~ Hey, ribbons don't have to be primarily used in hair」
「…… That's right, huh. Elena, is one of each color okay?」
「Un!」

Certainly, there's no need to use it in hair especially, let's buy it since Elena picked it herself.
Besides, she chose my hair and eye colors, she did something adorable.

「Then, this pink, cream, and light blue too? Two of each, please. Also, is that mirror perhaps for sale?」

I choose another three colors that seemed suitable for Elena.
Also, might as well buy a mirror, rigth? But, would a handicrafts shop sell those?

「This? I'm afraid to say not. This is something sold three stores from here」

Ah, as expected. But, let's buy it later since it's close.

「Rather than that, Oniisan! I have a favor to ask」
「A favor?」
「Yes! Won't you dress the children in this for me to see!?」

The slightly excited woman presents a white-hooded cape in each of her hands.

「I think it's okay, but」
「Really!?」

When I approved, the woman approached Allen and Elena to put the capes on at once.
Then, as expected, the two quickly hid behind my back.
They are able to speak in public, but they can't talk yet directly with someone except for me. Because of that, having someone dress them is…… impossible.

「Ah~……」
「Ah, indeed. These children are not used to strangers. Could you lend it to me?」

I received the capes from the depressed woman and helped the two put them on.

This time…… rather than the two putting it on themselves, they want me to put it on for them, huh~ Is it okay to be enjoying this sense of superiority? No, I can't… I have to let them become accustomed to strangers bit by bit…… Nevertheless, this cape, it feels nice on touch? Was it made with a good fabric? The cape is thick, it doesn't look like it could be worn after it gets hot.

「Can you put the hoods up!?」
「?」

After I had finished putting it on, I put the hoods up as the woman said.

「!! This is~~」

The hood surprised me. This is so cute!

There are animal ears on top of the hood!
Allen's are semicircular ears, Ellen's are triangular.
Allen and Elena titls their heads at me who is in agony, but that gesture wasn't something an ordinary person can survive. It can't be helped, but to fall into even deeper agony, right?

「So good! Amazingly nice!! Ah~ As I expected, it really suits these children!」
「You made this?」
「That's right. I'm also a tailor, after all. This is something I made a long time ago, but you see~ the moment I saw these children, I couldn't help it, but want them to put it on!!」

This person is apparently also a tailor. That explains why several clothes are on displayed.

「Are you selling this?」

Because the two are adorable in it, if she's selling it I would like tobuy it. The seasons already changed, but there's still room to grow so when it gets chilly again, they will be able to wear it.

「Of course! But, is that all right? It's made from a good fabric so the price is quite high. It's an unsold item so there's a discount, but…」
「It's all right. It suits the two well, after all」
「Really!? You saved me!!」

Thus, I immediately bought the two kemonomimi capes.
Ah, before I forget, we also visited the nearby shop to purchase the mirror.

Because I have bought lots for Elena this time, I will have to buy Allen something next, is what I thought, but…… but, what do you buy for boys?
…… Nn? What would be good?
Girls are easy to understand. It was a ribbon and a mirror this time. It will be accessory next time. A stuffed toy after that…
Then, for a boy? When I ask, the answer gets jammed.
What did I get when I was small?

———Games and manga? They don't have that in this world……

———A soccer ball or baseball glove? That's also not here…

———A plastic model? Not here……

———Building blocks? Would it be useful even if they sell it? In the first place, would the two play with building blocks?

Nn? This is no good…… I can't think of anything good……
After thinking for a while and not figuring anything out, I have decided to put Allen's shopping on hold.
Sorry, Allen…… I will think about it, so when there's another opportunity……

Chapter 22

『Gaya Forest』monster subjugation request.
The objective is thinning out the monsters and investigating whether monster nests were built in the vicinity of the town and sweep them if they were.

——Gaya Forest.
A very dangerous forest with a degree of risk at rank A, where monsters run rampant in significant numbers.
It is said that the central part of the forest is the territory of monsters so powerful that no one was able to return from there yet safely.

But, that does not mean that monsters are concentrated only in the center of the forest. The monsters appear even along the border of the forest.
The monsters that escape from the central part are classified as C-Rank and D-Rank. Nevertheless, they are still a great threat to ordinary people.
In addition, the strong monsters…… it's not like A-Rank monsters never come outside of the forest.
When they come out of the forest, the damage to humans inevitably increases.
Therefore, to influence the vicinity of the town…… a sweeping force is needed to clean up the near forest.

It's usually done just by knights without needing to have the help of adventurers.
This is a special case because of the place that is Gaya Forest.

Even if one enlist to knights and diligently trains, there is only a handful of people who can stride along in the Gaya Forest.
In addition, the town of Shirin is right around the border near a town in the Argo Kingdom. Although a friendly country, the town can't be left defenseless with all influential people going to the Gaya Forest.

Because of that, adventurers are called for help.
Influential people including A-Rank and B-Rank adventurer parties are being gathered.
As for me, I have received a designated request from the Knights branch Captain

Grunwald Ruven-sama to participate in the joint subjugation.

◇◇◇

One the appointed day. I stopped by the Adventurer's Guild with Allen and Elena first. My purpose was to check the details about the request.
Honestly, I didn't hear what sort of request this time's request is. Just the usual situation.
I didn't so I wanted to grasp the contents of the requests, so I won't get in the way. The Guild is on the way to the west gate, after all.
Therefore, I scanned the request board and then went to the gathering place at the west gate.

There, Knights loading several carriages and adventurers who also accepted the request are already gathered. When the people noticed our presence, they looked at us with a suspicious and sharp gazes.
I know I stand out because I have children with me, but what an unpleasant atmosphere.
For now, I ignore the stares and approach Wald-sama who is giving instructions.

「Ou, you came!」

Wald-sama who noticed us lifts up one hand and walks towards us.

「Good morning, Wald-sama」
「You properly came. The little ones came too as expected」
「Since I have received the request I would naturally come. Besides, Wald-sama understood that the children would go with me when you have given me the request, right?」

Wald-sama knows the circumstances of Allen and Elena. If you knew, why would you want me to participate in the request!

「Hahaha. You guys will be all right. Besides, I put you guys into my team」
「You have dived us into teams?」
「Three teams in total. A line-up of fifteen people. The parties of adventurers were kept together」
「From what I can see there is no other three person party beside us?」

It's easy to see each party from the way the adventurers are gathering.

「I let you guys participate on my own, after all. Ah, that way the number of knights could be decreased」

You seem to have been at least paid considerate in the party dividing.

「If you can pay that much consideration, you should have at least explained about us to the other knight-samas. You didn't even tell them about us participating? I can feel their cold gazes since a while ago」
「Oh! I forgot!」

This person……

The knights who were listening to our conversation attentively looks at Wald-sama with indifferent expressions. I wonder if Wald-sama is always like this.
But, it should have been transmitted that the person who asked us to come was Wald-sama himself. I hope this would make conversing with the unit a bit easier, though……
Allen and Elena who are sensitive towards the surroundings took the stares of others as "hostility," but they still thankfully didn't lash out, but clung closely to my legs instead.

I decided to lift the two up because it was hard walking like that. I lifted one, I lifted the second, and now they cling to my neck instead.
This will last for a while, huh……

◇◇◇

We moved by the carriage to the Gaya Forest. Because the carriages can't be left behind outside the forest, knight-samas who don't participate in the subjugation will take them back.
We will arrive in four to five hours.

I was able to exchange a few words with the knight-samas in the carriage. I'm glad their attitude softened a bit.
Because I was "Forced by Wald-sama", they had a sympathizing atmosphere around them, though. Apparently, Wald-sama regularly stirs up his surroundings.

The atmosphere in the carriage loosened and we arrived at the place of destination in peace.

「Oshi! The preparations are complete. From here, you will move according to your party's route towards the camping point」

This subjugation expedition is planned to last for five days. First, the three parties will move through the forest separately.
The party we are in has 10 Knight-samas including Wald-sama. Also, 4 men party『Dragon Breath』containing an A-Rank adventurer Rudolph-san. 17 people in total.
Without delay, I follow Wald-sama's team while holding hands with Allen and Elena.

After walking in the forest for a while.
「There~」
「Coming」

It seems that Allen and Elena sensed a monster. They point to the left with their fingers while pulling the hem of my clothes.

「Thank you. Wald-sama, a monster is coming from the left side」

I immediately report to the captain of this team, Wald-sama.

「N, from left? ——… Takumi, nothing's there」
「There's still some distance. But, you should see it soon. What to do in a situation like this? Everyone takes care of it?」

The extent of Allen's and Elena's detection is vast. Therefore, we have a spare time to prepare to confront the monster.

「Gilm, can you detect it?」

『Dragon Breath』leader, A-Rank Rudolph-san immediately checks with his party member.
Rudolph-san has a dignified, well-built stature, and he's carrying a spear with an ax-like blade attached…… a 38 years old man carrying a halberd. Indeed, a person emitting a "veteran" atmosphere.
The one he checks with is a C-Rank scout named Gilm-san. If I'm not mistaken,

he possesses a detection skill. The other two are a B-Rank swordsman Zack-san and the only woman, C-Rank magician Iris-san.

「No, there's no reaction」
「Oioi, that true? Don't say such spew such nonsense to me」
「……」

It seems like Gilm-san's detection still didn't react.
The surroundings become noisy.
Hearing Gilm-san's results, Zack-san jeers back in doubt. But, Rudolph-san as if observing something looks at the children and me.

I have a【Detection】skill, but this uses me as a center to spread magical power and allows me to search for magical power other than mine. It uses quite the quantity of the user and is considerably different from presence detection.
Even though he has the same【Detection】as me, since the amount of magical power I have is overwhelmingly larger, I can search wider area.

And although similar to【Detection】, Allen and Elena have【Presence Detection】. It's an ability which allows them to sense a malicious intent in a certain scope.
Although we have to activate the skill on our own, Allen and Elena are using the skill unconsciously.
And, the effective radius of Allen's and Elena's【Presence Detection】is vast. I checked this fact myself with my【Detection】.

That's the reason, Gilm-san's detection hasn't reacted yet.

「Ah!」
「What's wrong?」
「There's a reaction. Incoming!」

It seems the monster finally appeared in his detection.

「What!?」
「Really?」

『Dragon Breath』members and knight-samas simultaneously look towards us.
Nono, it's really the truth. It's not like I would say something irresponsible in a place like this.

Hey, what are you going to do about that? You shouldn't be paying attention here?

Immediately, a single Red Wolf enters the view. When it's seen, and everyone enters a ready for battle mode——

「Ah, oi!」

One of the knights points to a direction.

Ah, crap!

When I look to what he's pointing at, I see Allen and Elena charging at the Red Wolf.
When we were in the dungeon I told them "when you find a monster it's all right to defeat it", I remembered too late.
I forgot to tell Allen and Elena to behave……

The two drew close to the Red Wolf immediately.
There, Allen quickly kicks the chin of the Red Wolf from bellow. The Red Wolf raised a bit because of that kick and this time Elena drives a drop kick on its head.
The Red Wolf crashed into the ground and stopped moving.

『……』

The knights and adventurers all have the same dumbfounded expression with their mouths agape.

Chapter 23

「「Defeated~!」」

Allen and Elena return as if nothing has happened. While drawing the defeated Red Wolf by its forepaws behind them……
They have completely mastered the dungeon's action of "picking up dropped items from defeated monsters."
However… I should stop you from dragging the Red Wolf's large body with your little bodies…… everyone got even more surprised, after all……

「Ah, un. Good job~ Are you unhurt?」
「Un」
「Ok~ay」

First, let's pat the heads of the two who safely defeated the monster. It already became a habit. If I don't do that, the children will look up at me with anxiety.

「Ah~, also. This time, Oniichan and the others will fight the monsters, why don't Allen and Elena take a day-off?」
「「? Understand~」」

I tell them before I forget. There are 15 experienced adults, Allen and Elena shouldn't need to fight.
The two tilted their heads in puzzlement, but they seemed to understand. Like this, even if they find a monster, they won't recklessly charge at it.

「Oi! The hell was that just now!」
「No~… just as you saw?」

Even if you ask me what…

「Red Wolf is a C-Rank, you know!」
「Didn't you, Wald-sama assess the children as C-Rank adventurers yourself?」
「That was you! Did you want to make your opponents careless because he was facing children!?」

Eh!? Did you interpret it like that?

「…… Even if you thought so, I have told you about how I found these kids, right?」
「That talk about them being orphaned, right? What about it?」

…… Seriously?

Did he not notice anything……
You, how could you want me to join in the request then?

「I told you I found these children malnourished in the Gaya Forest」
「I have heard that」
「!!」

Wald-sama looks like he doesn't understand yet, but the silver-haired, grayish blue-eyed, stereotypical "brains" like looking vice-captain Isaac Risner-sama realized it. He opens his eyes wide in surprise.

「…… By that, you mean "the children have originally lived in this forest"…… right? 」
「Ah!!」

With Risner-sama's words, Wald-sama finally understood.

「That's right. Were they defeating the monsters, or were they running away from them? I don't know how they lived until now yet, but they have certainly survived in the forest for several days」
『……』

Everyone is at a loss for words.
Everyone knows the dreadfulness of this forest. For that reason, they can imagine just how harsh those several days Allen and Elena lived here must have been.

「Anyhow. These children were originally strong, so even if you ask me I won't be able to answer you」

I said while patting the heads of Allen and Elena on both of my sides.
If I say it like that, there most likely won't be anyone who will ask further questions.

「Well then, here you go」

To not linger about this topic anymore, I present the defeated Red Wolf to Wald-sama.

「Ah?」
「The Knights are collecting the defeated monsters, right?」
「Yes……」

The defeated monsters are at once collected the Knights, then purchased later. A suitable price depending on the contribution will be paid separately from the request payment.
So I said, why do you still have such complicated expressions?

「…… You guys can keep that」
「Is that alright?」
「Yes. If I include that in the check, I would feel guilty for stealing from the kids…… N? Takumi, do you have a magic bag? Should I lend you one?」
「No, it's alright」

I'm told that we can harvest this Red Wolf.
Because the wolf was completely defeated by Allen and Elena only, he would feel awkward to collect it.
Even though he doesn't have to worry about it~ But, well if he says so, I will take it without any reservation.

「……《Infinite Storage>》? A space-time magic user…」
「Eh!?」

Rudolph-san points out when I collect the Red Wolf.
How did he know!?
I have made an unnatural reaction because of your sudden comment!

「The flow of magical power of magic bag and《Infinite Storage》is different. That thing on your waist is definitely a magic bag, but you have collected it elsewhere, right?」
「……」

That surprised me. To think he would be able to distinguish the difference of magical flow between magic bag and《Infinite Storage》……

「That's amazing. To be able to perceive such a small difference in magical

flow」
「It’s only possible for people who excel at perceiving magical power」

A proficiency of a skill, huh…… As expected of A-Rank. Indeed, not an ordinary person.

The others aside from Rudolph-san look surprised. I wasn’t planning on concealing it forever, but I was unexpectedly exposed early.
But, like this, I will be able to use it without holding back, so let’s not mind it?

The surveying of the forest has resumed.
And then, after a while——

「「Ah!」」

Allen and Elena suddenly run off and squat to a tree’s base.
N? Is there something? Ah, a medicinal plant.

「「Here!」」

What the two brought back is a Demon Spirit Grass.

＝＝＝＝＝
【Demon Spirit Grass】
A medicinal plant growing in places with a demonic element in the air.
A special condition is necessary in order to cultivate demonic element. There is no success in its cultivation so far.
A useful medicinal plant mainly used for magic potions.
＝＝＝＝＝

「You remembered well~ However you see~……」
「「Can’t~?」」

This is a medicinal plant which we gathered for a request once before. The two remembered it well.
But, we are working in a group right now, so I can’t have them going out on their own.
It’s not good. Normally I would……
I glance over to Wald-sama. Then, Allen and Elena look at him too.
Then, once again.

「「Can’t~?」」

They request with puppy eyes.
If it were me, I would get defeated instantly. How about Wald-sama……?

「…… I don’t mind if you follow without falling behind」

He closed his eyes for Allen and Elena.
Since listening to the talk about Allen and Elena a while ago, the other knight-samas watch over the children with lukewarm expressions.
Allen and Elena sense that too, they are able to give simple answers.
We have become quite well-known, but that may have been good.
Un, all turned out good…… I think?

「Don’t go too far」
「「Ye~s」」

Allen and Elena who received permission start running here and there energetically. They collect medicinal plants and fruits one by one.
But, you see, I didn’t teach them about the medicinal plants in the vicinity? ……
Eh, did they see them before?
… Yes, when I met them in the Gaya Forest for the first time. I was indeed gathering various things that time. But, I was collecting it alone, did they remember just from seeing me?
They remember well~
My body was inserted with knowledge and appraisal, so I had it easy, but these children really are talented~

「Oniicha~n」
「Get that~」

Allen and Elena seem to find something again and trot over to me. Then, they point their fingers at a big rock, trying to show me something.
When I look towards the direction they are pointing at, I see a moss growing in the shade of rocks.

I see. This can’t be gathered without gloves. These children even remember the proper gathering method.

＝＝＝＝＝

【Iwami Moss】
A turquoise species of moss growing in humid, dark places. Especially in shade of rocks.
Causes rash in contact with bare hands.
Medicine for an itch when mixed with several kinds of medicinal plants.
＝＝＝＝＝

「What's that?」
「That's an Iwami Moss, isn't it? They are really smart children」

All members stop and look at the shade of the rock.
Most of the people tilt their heads in puzzlement, but Risner-sama seems to know of it. My brains-like impression of him wasn't wrong.

「This is a material mainly used for skin itch medicine. Captain, you were previously lamenting when an anti-itch medicine wasn't being sold, weren't you? It's used for that. The reason that medicine isn't sold that much anymore is because the Iwami Moss's acquisition has recently decreased」

"Mainly used for skin itch medicine" Risner-sama makes it sound good, but…… in other words, it's that. Medicine for athlete's foot.
Wald-sama… you have an athlete's foot, don't you……
Are? Why are so many people staring at the moss? You guys too!?

「Seriously!? Oshi! Let's gather it all!」
「Captain, you can't!」
「Wald-sama, you can't!」

Wald-sama who really wants an itch medicine quickly moved towards the moss. Both Risner-sama and I stop him in panic.

「Captain, if you touch it bare handed you will get rash. Please, think a bit about why those children didn't gather it themselves but called Takumi-san instead! Even though I told you to『Stop working by instinct』so many times! Besides———」

Risner-sama started his lecturing. The other knight-samas look like this is a normal occurrence. Being a vice-captain to a captain who moves on instincts seems tough.
While the lecturing is going on, I put on leather gloves, shave off the moss

clinging to the rock with a knife and collect it.

However, even when I was done with the collecting, the lecturing time didn't come to an end yet.
Is it still going to continue?
Let's confirm with the other knights.

「When will this finish?」
「It won't end for an another hour」

…… Another hour? No~ I can't wait that long……
Can't be helped……

「Let's release the ultimate weapon…」
「The ultimate weapon… is it?」
「Right. Allen, Elena. Come here———」

I whisper to their ears and send them out towards Risner-sama.

「N?」

The two approach Risner-sama and pull on the hem of his clothes. Risner-sama noticed it and stopped his lecturing.

「What's the matter?」
「Here」
「For you」

Allen and Elena hand Risner-sama the gathered Iwami Moss.

「You are giving me this?」

Risner-sama who crouched down checks the contents of the bag and confirms with Allen and Elena.

「Un」
「For you~」
「Thank you very much」
「「Un!」」

They were able to end the lecturing time safely.
Allen, Elena. You did well!

Chapter 24

「Allen, Elena. Come! It’s time for a break」
「「Ye~s」」

I call over the two children who are running all over the place, picking fruits and medicinal plants, and use《Washing》on them.

「What would you like for a snack?」

Because I got the permission from Wald-sama, the two have snack break while walking.
Allen and Elena who move the same as the adults, eat half of what the adults eat. It can’t be helped because they have small stomachs. However, that would prevent them from receiving enough nutrition, so I often give them snacks on the move.

「「Cream!」」

The request of the two seems to be a Cream bread.

「Here. Eat while paying attention so you don’t trip」
「「Ye~s」」

The two bit into the bread immediately after I hand it over to them. Wald-sama who saw that suddenly shouts.

「Oi! Is that『Gold Wheat’s Shop』phantom bread!?」
「What’s with that……」

Phantom bread? Cream bread?

「Sold on days without a fixed date, moreover, there’s a limit of 20 breads a day, therefore it’s called “Phantom bread”!」

Oh, seems like Road-san started selling Cream bread.

◆ ◆ ◆

It was few days after arriving at the town of Shirin.

「Excuse me」

「Ye~s」

When the sun was setting, I visited a bakery called『Gold Wheat's Shop』.
The goods weren't displayed anymore, it was the closing time.
When I entered the shop and called the salesclerk, a woman immediately came from inside the shop.

「I'm sorry, it's time for the shop to close today」

The woman was apologetic.

「Is it possible to order bread here?」

First of all, I asked what I came to ask.

「Do you mean you need a certain quantity prepared?」
「No, there's bread I want you to make」

The bread eaten in Aetherdia are simple. The sizes are different by the shop, but all of them are just a circular bread.
Table roll——a small-sized bread used as a garnish for meals.
If a Pullman loaf is not being sold here, things like Kashi-pan[1] or Chouri-pan[2] won't sell anywhere.

But, there are more or less varieties of bread.
Containing an albumen mixed with wheat flour——a bread made with a whole wheat flour, Cereal bread.
Bread made from a refined white wheat flour, White bread.
A rye flour——a bread made from rye, Brown bread.

Although the white bread is delicious and fluffy, it's wasteful not to develop it further.

I thought. If it's not here, why not just create it?
So I came to『Gold Wheat's Shop』.

「You want to make? Is it something different from what's being sold?」
「Yes, that's right」
「Umm…… the bread is made by the father so… I will get him」
「Alright」

The woman is apparently a daughter of the shopkeeper.

She went back to the kitchen and called over the shopkeeper.

「Is it you? The one wanting to make bread」

Immediately, a solidly built man, with a typical『Oyaji-san』appearances came out.

「What do you want to make?」
「Umm, it's this, but…」

I take out a custard cream and Ranka fruit jam I made myself.

「N…… a jam? I don't know this one…」
「This is called custard cream. I want to put this inside bread and bake it」
「Put inside, you say?」
「Is that not possible?」
「It's not like it's not possible, but. I have never made something like that before…」
「In that case———」

I visited『Gold Wheat's Shop』the next day in the afternoon again and demonstrated the shopkeeper, Road-san how to make it.
I received a pre-made white bread dough from Road-san and I immediately worked on the filling.
First, I taught Road-san how to wrap the jam and custard cream in the dough properly. As expected of a baker, he quickly got hold of it.

The custard cream and jam I prepared has been all used up in no time. On the other hand, there was quite a lot of the dough remaining.
He wanted to bake the remaining dough normally, but I asked if I can take it over as I was thinking about using it for a different bread.
Road-san who showed interest in the Cream bread and Jam buns readily approved.

Having said that, something suddenly came on my mind……
I retrieved Raisins from《Infinite Storage》I washed them in hot water and lightly sprinkled with rum. Maa, I intended to make a basic Raisin bread. I only knead it into the dough.
After all, there is also no store which sells those.

What can I make next…… ah, that's right! There was that!

What I retrieved next is a cinnamon stick. I found and bought this while walking around a grocery store.
That and sugar. Sugar is not from a grocery store, but it was something I received from Syl. I mix it with cinnamon to create a cinammon sugar.
I spread the dough into a 30cm rectangle and paint the surface with melted butter, sprinkle it over with the cinnamon sugar and coil it around in a cylinder shape.
I cut it into 3~4cm long sections and bake it. All that's left is to sprinkle it over with a dissolved sugar once it's baked?
I surprisingly quite love them~ Cinnamon rolls.

Now, Road-san only needs to bake them properly.

After all the bread was baked, it was time for sampling.

「So good!」

I receive praises from Road-san.

「「Yummy~」」

Allen and Elena who observed me the whole time finally bit into the samples which they really liked. Although they were only samples, but because there were four kinds of bread, they filled their mouths plentily.
A~ah, if they eat so much, they won't be able to eat dinner later~

And then, the bread I made (strictly speaking, they weren't my ideas) became the talk of『Gold Wheat's Shop』.
Of course, I have approved of it. If it sells, I will be now able to buy it from a shop. Because the custard cream tends to spoil, I had to explain its method of making, though carefully.

After that, Road-san did various trials and errors and put the products on sale.

◆ ◆ ◆

The rumors of『Gold Wheat's Shop』Jam bun, Raisin bread, Cinnamon roll

being first-class bread from the town of Shirin spread around.
The rival bakeries now started selling them too.
Maa, but no matter what happens, their rivals won't be able to reproduce it properly. But still, there are one or two shops that are ahead of『Gold Wheat's Shop』.
But, the Cream bread made with custard cream is a specialty of『Gold Wheat's Shop』. They won't allow its ingredients to be known to anyone.

The culture of "Bread, the main protagonist" was born……

… I honestly didn't know. When did it become like that……
I didn't think that the Cream bread would become so famous it would be called "Phantom bread"……

「Moreover, there's a talk it sells out a few minutes after selling. Takumi, you bought it!」
「No, this is something that was personally made for me」
「Haa!? What's that! They shouldn't be accepting orders for that!」

I did order anything from Road-san.
Rather, why is Wald-sama so knowledgeable about this? Did he perhaps not eaten it yet?
The Knights including Wald-sama are looking envious…… The adventurers of『Dragon Breath』who are not from Shirin didn't seem to know of it, but they are now greatly interested…

「Kiddos, share a bit with me」
「「No~!!」」

Please don't go taking food from children!!
Ah~ my Cream bread inventory…… ah, there's enough for all people here.
Can't be helped~

「Only this one time~」
「Seriously!? Alright!」

When I take out the Cream bread, everyone gathers.
Calm down a bit! This is『Gaya Forest』be a little careful of surroundings!

「Iya~ that was good!」

Everyone who ate the Cream bread liked it. There seems to be an unexpectedly large amount of people who like sweets.
However, in this world, the most common sweet thing is jam.
There also seems to be cookies, but they are something that only those with a bit more money can afford.
Honey and starch syrup appear to be relatively cheap, but it can only be eaten like that or mixed in a tea.
No wonder I couldn't find sweets for Allen and Elena in the town.
I have no choice, but to make the sweets myself from now on.

[] [TOC] [Map] []

Footnotes

1. Kashi-pan ↩
2. Chouri-pan ↩

Chapter 25

『Buhiiiiiii~』

After the unexpected break, a group consisting of six Orcs and one High Orc has appeared after we resumed the survey.

Knights in pairs take on the Orcs, while the『Dragon Breath』party engages the High Orc.
And I'm also responsible for taking care of one Orc.
Although Allen and Elena are here, I confront the Orc alone.
Seeing that, Rudolph-san and Gilm-san offered help, but I of course declined.
There's only one opponent, after all. There are no problems.

「《Wind Cutter》」

I quickly cut its head off, case closed!

Orc has a large body with great power, but its movements are slow so it's easy to defeat. All you have to do is aim and shoot. A big body means big target.
Easy peasy!

「Haa~!」

As for the Knights, one person attracts the Orc's attention and the other person strikes at it.
They keep repeating it wounding it little by little and then give it a fatal wound.
It's a very steady way of fighting.
I just quietly watch, ready for a follow-up anytime.

However…… They way of fighting is completely opposite of me who can only fight with brute strength.
It's a way of fighting that I, who lived 20 years without a single fight can't do.
In the first place, I didn't do any other exercises back on Earth than running (I wasn't fast by any means). I was not athletic at all.
Un, I was a klutz. What a sad thing……

In ball games, I was catching the balls with my face~ It's all old memories now.
However, I can now run fast because of the present body, my physical ability

can’t be compared to my previous one!
Iya~ moving freely is splendid! I could avoid any ball now!
However, even if my physical ability increased, my martial experience is zero, so I may not be able to provide much support……
I know I can’t help because I never had any interest in things like these, leaving me with limited knowledge.

Allen’ and Elena’s fighting style is strong, should I learn a bit from them?
Dojo… is there a place like that somewhere~
There should be a place that teaches basics. Let’s look for one next time.

「Oriyaa~!」
「Buhiiii~」

Ah, looks like Wald-sama and others defeat all of the Orcs. There don’t seem to be any injuries.

「Haaa!」
「Buhiiiiiii~!」

Oh, Rudolph-san’s halberd beheaded the High Orc.
With the High Orc’s cry of agony, Rudolph-san shouts not losing to the Orc.

「Uwa!」

When all Orcs are defeated, Wald-sama looks at me with a stern expression.
Then he suddenly asks while grabbing my head.

「Takumi!!」
「Yes!?」
「To instakill an Orc… just who are you!」

Even if you asks me that.
I understand that an experienced Knight will have troubles against Orc in a one on one fight, but I think that anyone with some skill in magic can behead such slow monster easily?
Moreover, the others also didn’t take that much time to deal with their opponents.
Why are you grabbing my head?

「「Uu~」」
「Allen, Elena. It's all right. Wald-sama how about releasing your hand? The two are wary of you」

I'm being bullied? The two probably thought so and let out cute growling noises.
Hearing my words, Wald-sama notices Allen and Elena clinging to my sides while glaring at him. He awkwardly releases his hand.

「Allen, Elena. Look, I'm okay, calm down please~」

For now, I pat the two *U~ u~* growling kids' heads.

「To have that done to him and be alright!」
「Perhaps captain wasn't serious enough?」
「No, that was serious. I can tell. That was a considerable amount of power」
「… Inhuman」
「Right. He's not normal」

Because I was held with all his strength, I felt pain. However, I have a physical attack resistance. Moreover, it's MAX'ed!
Therefore, although I felt only a little pain, an average person would be finished.
The Knight start whispering among themselves after witnessing me not showing any reaction to Wald-sama's attack.
Hey, you guys…… I can hear you.
They are certainly not wrong. I'm a God's retainer "Human?". You are not wrong, but…… that's somewhat rude.

「Wald-sama and others also didn't take much time to deal with their opponents」
「We were in pairs! Moreover, we can't do something like instakilling it! You are an F-Rank fraud!」
「No, I have raised by one rank, so I'm an E-Rank now」

Adventurers normally start at F-Rank, right? Then, they steadily improve they rank.
I'm not a fraud!

「Doesn't change the fact it's stra~nge!」

So cruel……

「Rudolph-dono! I will contact Guild Master too, but once we return, please tell Guild Master to raise this fellow's rank immediately!」
「Right. I will definitely talk with him」
「……」

Oya?

「With a high ranker's recommendation, the Guild Master can raise one rank to some extent」

Rudolph-san who saw my bewilderment explains.

Something like skipping grades? I see, so there was such a system.
As expected, I didn't know such information.
Probably, even though Syl knows basic information, he isn't aware of small details like this. It's not necessary for him, after all.

It wouldn't be bad to raise my rank, right? The extent of requests I could take will increase.
What procedures should be taken after returning to the town?
Maa~ Rudolph-san said he would talk to the guild's top so I should probably just wait since they will be contacting me?

「First of all, let's clean up. Fuse, Cain. Rudolph-dono and others dismantle the High Orc. Collect as much meat as you need. Others take the Orcs」

People start dismantling on Wald-sama's orders.
I also collect the Orc's materials.
First, the magic stone.
Next, the testicles…… it's apparently an ingredient used for male-oriented stimulants. I will absolutely never drink it, but…… this seems to be quite high in demand.
High Orc's materials are same as Orc's, magic stone and testicles. Also, it's skin is used for protective gear.

Also, both have an enormous amount of meat.

This is a problem. Several of 3~4 meters tall Orcs leave behind quite a lot of meat.
It's food. It would be normally brought back, but today is the first day of the expedition. If we secure it now, it will spoil before we could get back to the town. Unfortunately, in a case like this, we can only secure enough for us to consume.

「Yosh, we are done. Then———」

And, the rest is burned, so they don't turn undead.

———Normally, they would be burned, but……

「Wald-sama」
「Takumi, what's up?」
「Have you forgotten? With me, we can collect everything」

In my《Infinite Storage》the meat won't spoil.

『Ah!』

He seemed to forget because he's not familiar with it yet, but the time stops in space-time magic. It should be known that time stops inside the《Infinite Storage》.
Thus, we have decided to collect the rest of the Orc meat.
Because it would take a time to dismantle, I just stored everything inside《Infinite Storage》 just like that.

「Nevertheless…… to think there would be a group so close to the town」
「This is unusual」
「What do you think, Rudolph-dono?」

It seems to be rare to encounter a group half a day distance of the town.
They are mostly seen alone.
Wald-sama and Risner-sama confirm the situation with Rudolph-san.

「Umu. I have a feeling that the atmosphere in the forest has been quieter than before……」

Rudolph-san's meaning isn't "it's calm", but "it's quiet before the storm".

「Captain, it might be better to investigate this carefully」
「Yea, I agree. Let's move with more care from now on」

We advance further to the forest while cautious.

[] [TOC] [Map] []

Chapter 26

When the sun begins to go down, we arrived at the camping point.

I wanted to prepare a meal, but it seems the Knights are in charge of meals.
The ones in charge are the knights Cain-san and Heinz-san.
It appears that the menu is High Orc meat skewer, soup, and hard bread.
Cain-san pours water into a large pot puts a small amount of dehydrated vegetables inside. Soup?
Heinz-san is preparing the skewers. He's cutting the Hight Orc meat into chunks and stabbing it on skewers…… Fist-sized chunks of meat?

…… N?

「Please, wait a moment!」
「Takumi-san, what's the matter?」

I hesitated to interfere, but…… I can't overlook this!
I absolutely feel wrong about this……

「I just want to confirm, but…… are you going to put something else in this soup? after boiling it?」
「No, I will just season it with salt afterward!」
「……」

Seriously……

「Are you going to cook meat of that size?」
「Yes!」
「……」

……

Oh my…… is this normal? It feels like nothing is strange with this……
Nono! Indeed, the meals in『Komadori Pavilion』had a salt-based taste. However, they were appropriately delicious.
This is not normal!

「First, the soup. Aren't you missing ingredients for the stock? It will only have a salty taste like this… Then, make the meat into a bit smaller pieces, if too little

they will easily burn, if too big, they will be underdone」

The people here were saying that the cream bread was delicious. Which means that their palate isn't misaligned.
So for what reason are they overlooking this?

When I ask Wald-sama and the other knights———

「We are mostly people who can't cook, you see」
「Everytime during the camp it's "as long as we eat" feeling. Dried meat and hard bread are better than soup stock alone」
「It's because, in this unit, Cain and Heinz make the best meals」

Most of the knights are noblemen. It should be quite reasonable that they can't cook.
However, since they are nobles they should have refined palates…… they don't seem to mind.
They probably make a firm line during camping.

After that, I ask the Dragon Breath party———

「We also always eat dried meat and hard bread」
「Iris? No way, impossible. This fellow can't cook~*mon*」
「Rather, this fellow makes hazardous waste」
「…… I can live even without being able to cook!」

I got a similar answer.
Apparently, there is no decent cook.

No, but I'm sorry. I don't want to eat the meal Cain-san and Heinz-san are going to make.
Besides, I have to pay attention to Allen's and Elena's meals. Their malnourished bodies finally started approaching the standard.
Dried meat and hard bread are disagreeable, but I will definitely won't let them eat a nearly salt water soup and underdone meat!

「Cain-san! Please, finely cut 3~4 pieces of meat and put them into the pot! Heinz-san, please cut all the chunks of meat into 1/4 sizes! I will return right away, so please do it in the meantime!」

I give instructions to Cain-san and Heinz-san without caring for my standing,

leave the camping point and enter the forest to gather the necessary things.
Of course, Allen and Elena follow after me.

First, securing the ingredients!
It would be alright to use ingredients from the《Infinite Storage》, but I thought it would be better not to use it in front of the other teams.
Besides, the forest is a treasure house of ingredients. I can gather enough ingredients in a matter of several minutes without having to use the ingredients from《Infinite Storage》.

「I'm back!」

After returning with edible plants and mushrooms in both of my hands, I immediately start cooking.

「This is?」
「Ena grass and Blue seed. Both are edible plants. And this is Rook mushroom and Petal mushroom. These are edible mushrooms」
「I have seen those at the market」
「That's right. All of them are common, after all」

I give names and explain about to plants I picked to Cain-san and other interested people.
All these plants and mushroom are commonly sold at the market. I thought they might accept the things they are familiar with easier. I choose the things to pick like that.
I have found some rare mushroom that doesn't appear at the market that much, but I have stopped myself from serving them something they are not familiar with while telling them『It's all right』to eat.
Ah, of course, I picked it and stored it inside the《Infinite Storage》.

「These grow almost anywhere, so it will be useful to remember them」

After adding the chopped meat, I washed and cut the plants, vegetables, and mushrooms and added them to the pot.
While the water in the pot is getting hot on the fire, I stick mouthful-sized meat onto skewers, lightly sprinkle them with salt, and put them near the fire.
Of course, I have used Cain-san and Heinz-san.
The two are helping without complaining. From a certain standpoint, it may

seem like I'm selfishly butting in. Somehow, I'm sorry……
I season the soup lastly after the veggies and mushrooms cook. Because the dried meat comes with salt, using just a little bit of salt is okay.
The mushrooms and dried meat in the soup leave a nice feeling to it.
I grill the meat carefully without exposing it to intense heat.
Yosh, it's finished!

「!!!!」

Everyone takes a mouthful of the completed dish and their movements stop. Was it not palatable? I thought for a moment, but the next moment, everyone started vigorously stuffing their mouths.

「Oh!」
「Delicious!」
「Ngu!」

Seems like I was worried for nothing.
They continue quietly eating after that, and all of the soup and grilled meat disappeared.

「Iya~ I'm stuffed! That was delicious~!」
「I'm glad it suited your tastes」

Because it was a simple food that didn't take much effort to make, I didn't think they would be so pleased with it. If they are pleased like this, it was worthwhile cooking it.

「Iya~ Takumi is talented. I can't think that he just came of age」
「…… Haa?」

Wald-sama suddenly says something strange.

What did he just say? Did he just say『came of age』?
It means becoming an adult in Japanese. However, on Aetherdia, one becomes an adult at 15 years of age, you know?
Is this that…… I look five years younger?

「…… I don't know how old you think I am, but I'm 20, you know?」
『Eh!?』

Ue!? Everyone!? Everyone here is surprised?

「Seriously!? I thought you would be 16-17 at most」
「……」

Was I only seen as someone who just came of age? So it's true that faces of Japanese people look young…… I have realized it for the first time.

A silly talk continued after that.
I had to tsukkomi a few times as the talk flowed, but it went well.

When it became dark, the night watch has been selected.
There will be three shifts, but I was told I don't need to be on duty today, so I gratefully decided to sleep.

「Here, Allen, Elena」

I put the blanket over Allen and Elena, and they cuddle to my sides as always.

「Do you always sleep like that?」
「Just when sleeping outside. They don't seem to like sleeping on the cold ground」
「Fuun~」

I have tried spreading the blanket on the ground once before, but the two opposed by shaking their heads.
It seems like they recall the time before meeting me….. their environment when they were slaves. They don't appear to remember much, but they remember this.
In addition, the two seem to have taken a liking to sleeping like this after the first time.

「Then, I will gratefully accept your offer and sleep」
「Ou. Have a good sleep」

Suu~ Suu~ the two have already fallen asleep. After gently patting their heads, I closed my eyelids.

The next day when I woke up, everyone was staring at me with expectations to make breakfast.

Of course, I made it……

I mean, I might as well make something delicious.

[] [TOC] [Map] []

Chapter 27

「Captain! That!」

The second day of the expedition advanced smoothly. We are a little ahead of schedule today as all three teams are going to gather at one camping point.
At that time, an accident has happened.
One of the knights all of sudden loudly shouts and points towards a direction.

N? A red light is visible.

「It's a flare! We are rushing to join up!」

Wald-sama says quickly changes the direction. Others follow him.
Only I follow without knowing what's going on.

By flare they mean the red light, right? Does it have any meaning?

「What is that?」
「It's light from an emergency magic tool. We use it when encountering an unmanageable monster, when in need of assistance. One of the teams must be in trouble」

There seem to be various colors with different meanings, the red means that help is requested, and on the other hand, blue is used when there's no need for help.
There also seem to be smoke flare types, but light flare types are used in places like Gaya Forest where the view is obstructed.

Risner-sama quickly explained while speedily advancing towards the flare.
The reason we do not run at full speed is that it's highly possible that we will have to fight before getting to the destination. We wouldn't be of any help if we got exhausted before joining up.
Everyone moves at a quick pace while suppressing the feelings of impatience.

「It would be better to hurry up?」
「Yes, that's right」
「Then, I will go ahead. Allen and Elena———」
「「Going~」」

It's an emergency with human lives on the line. I shouldn't be stingy.
Because I can use Wind Magic to accelerate, I will use that and go ahead.
Therefore, I have thought to let Allen and Elena stay with Wald-sama and others———but they spoke faster than me.
It seems impossible to persuade them now, so I decided to take them along. We shouldn't be wasting any more time.

「Wind, gather around me and form a gale.《Accel》」

I chant with Allen and Elena in my arms. It looked like Wald-sama was saying something, but I ignored it, enveloped my body in wind's power, and started running.
Several minutes later, we arrived at the place of destination.

「Is that it!」

People opposing monsters with their swords appeared in my sight.
I jumped up with the momentum and landed on a branch where I overlooked the situation from.
The monster is Red Wolf's higher variety, B-Rank Bloody Wolf. Moreover, it's a whole pack.
Bloody Wolf is a wolf with a fur red as blood. Confirming visually…… there are 7 in total?
The path of retreat has been cut off. Furthermore, there several people on their knees.
Wounded? They don't seem to be severely wounded, but it will get dangerous if it continues.

「Allen, Elena. I will reduce the numbers first by bit, will you help me with clean up?」
「「Un!」」
「Thank you」
「「Ye~s」」

The situation is worse than I thought. It feels like they are "Barely holding their ground" and won't be able to hold any longer.
I wanted to help alone, but it doesn't look I will be able to rescue them all on my own, so I asked Allen and Elena for assistance.

「《Air Shot》」

First, I aim at the Bloody Wolves from the top of the branch and shoot seven air bullets.
———*Doon.*

「Gyaun!」
「Wha! What!?」

The air bullets hit. A cloud of dust rises together with the cries of Bloody Wolves and surprised voices.
I immediately blow off the cloud of dust with wind to clear the visibility.
Apparently, the《Air Shot》hit only four targets. Moreover, the air bullets only damaged them, I wasn't able to kill them off.
I held back on my magical power so I wouldn't involve the people nearby, but it seems that the magical power wasn't enough to kill the wolves.

I retrieve a『Water Katana』from the《Infinite Storage》. This is something I received from Water God's retainers.
I pull the blade from its blue scabbard while jumping off the branch and kill one of the injured Bloody Wolves. The Blood Wolf cries it's last「Gyaun!」and falls down.
I immediately pull the sword from the dead Bloody Wolf and instantly behead another one. With this, two Bloody Wolves have died.

———*Dokon!*

Following me, Allen and Elena jump down and land on two Bloody Wolves, killing them right away.
The squashed Bloody Wolves sunk into the ground, but that's a trifling matter, right?

Now then, this leaves three more Bloody Wolves.
Allen and Elena face a nearby Bloody Wolf together.

「Be careful, okay?」
「「Ye~s!」」

An energetic reply.
I think it will be all right, but no matter what I'm worried about the two children.

「Y, you guys certainly are… the people Wald brought along……」
「Yes. We have come to back you up」

One of the knights approaches and asks me while supporting his body with a sword. This is the team's captain if I'm not mistaken.

I look at the people that were attacked.
Everyone has some kind of a wound, but including the people that are on their knees without being able to move, there doesn't seem to be anyone with life threating injury.

「First of all, we will tidy this up. Please, gather the people that can't move in one place in the meantime」
「O, oi!」

After saying that, I turn around and confront the two growling Bloody Wolves.
I think I have heard a disapproving voice, but I disregard it, and set up with the Water Katana in my right hand, and magic ready to be shot in my left hand.

「《Air Shot》」

First, I face one of the wolves and shoot an《Air Shot》at it to keep it in check and assault the other.
I evade the Bloody Wolf that attacks me from the back. The Bloody Wolf I kept in check with《Air Shot》imemdiately cut the distance between us.
I twist my body to evade the other charging Bloody Wolf and swing my katana at it, but it was able to dodge.
Strong! As expected of B-Rank monster.
Bringing the four down with a surprise attack might have been a big win.

While glaring at the two Bloody Wolves, I take a glance at Allen and Elena. They are skillfully poking the wolf down.
It somehow looks like they are playing. No, judging from their happy expressions, they really are playing.
But well~ They seem to be okay at the moment.

When I return my sight at the two Bloody Wolves, they rush at me as if they were waiting for this timing.
Now then, what should I do?

I could easily defeat them with some extra magical power, but I would damage both the wolves and surroundings too much. That is no good, right?
The fur of Bloody Wolf is selling for a high price. They appear to be used to make coats for noble ladies.
If I'm thinking like that, could it be that I got used to an adventurer lifestyle?

N~ I don't want to damage the fur, after all~ It's a pity, but I don't want to waste much time.

「《Air Shot》」

First, I shot several air bullets at the same time.

———*Don!*

They hit the ground here and there, causing a cloud of dust whirl up. This time, I charge right inside the bad visibility cloud.

「Ha!」

I swing down the katana at the sign of presence.

「Gyaun!」

A sense of feedback.
I make sure once the cloud of dust clears up. I see a wolf head at my feet.
Un. I was able to defeat it. Moreover, not the body, but it's neck. I did better than I expected.

The other Bloody Wolf groans at the loss of its companion.
A one on one charge?
I was about to strike that fellow down with my sword.

But, at that time———

「Gyaun!」

Something came crashing into the side of the Bloody Wolf.

「…… Are?」

The thing that crashed into the Bloody Wolf is! Another Bloody Wolf.
When I look at the direction the Bloody Wolf flew from, Allen and Elena were there.

Their flying kicks sent it to the crash course.
The flying Bloody Wolf is already dead, but the one it crashed into is still alive, so I finished it first by slashing its neck.

「Oi! You alright!?」

Wald-sama and others arrived right at this moment.

idle talk 3

I’m Isaac Risner.
I’m the vice captain of Shirin’s branch’s second Knight unit.
The captain I work under is Grunwald Ruven, an honest man who can’t stay idle for a minute. He’s a musclebrain who charges at everything without thinking.
I should be an assistant of the captain, but it always ends up with me doing all the paperwork.

「Captain!」
「What? Why are you so flustered」

While working in the office, I see a figure of a person walking to the town gates from Gaya Forest, so I report while flustered.
No person passed this gate leading to the Gaya Forest in last several days.
All gates except this west gate are usually used to get out of the town. If you miss the highway and come to this gate, you would be coming from northwest or southwest.
However, the figure I see is coming from the west. It’s coming straight from the Gaya Forest.
There are occasionally some reckless people who go to the Gaya Forest, but they would be someone coming from the town, we would be able to confirm their identities.

「Isaac, I will go take a look」
「I understand. Please, return properly. If not, you won’t be sleeping tonight」
「…… I know」

He was already restless, he wanted to escape from the work.
I approve, allowing him to take a breather from work.
Captain decided to go to the west gate and wait for the person in question.
After a while, Captain returned back to the office.

「Captain, what happened?」
「He apparently went out to gather some medicinal plants. Moreover, he even took two children with him」

「… Children, is it?」
「Yes. Two little ones were with him」
「……」

Just a naive youth. Is what I'd like to think, but that youth apparently successfully returned from Gaya Forest with medicinal plants.
If it's like that, he must have a considerable ability.
Unfortunately, he just arrived here from a village and didn't belong to any organizations or guilds so we couldn't identify him.
Well, it turns out like that when you don't have identification papers.
Because I didn't have that much interest at that time, I ended up forgetting about that youth.
However, Captain apparently had another encounter with that youth and the children.
And because he had an interest in that youth, he requested him to join the subjugation expedition in Gaya Forest.
I found out later that day.

Really, Captain is always so selfish…… letting children participate in a request with the overbearing adventurers, how foolish!
Thinking about the place we are going, I begin to worry.
Nevertheless, because an official request can't be turned down, they ended up participating.

「Ah, oi!」

It was after entering the forest for a while.
Cain, one of my subordinates points his finger and shouts in panic.
When I look towards the direction… aren't those children charging at a Red Wolf?
Hey, wait a second, please! Why are you running that way!?
Haa!? The boy kicked the Red Wolf from below, a splendid kick.
Eeeeh!? Why is the Red Wolf's body lifting up!? It's a kick of a child, you know?
Even though the monster is on the smaller size, it's still twice as large as the children?
This time, the girl drop kicks the Red Wolf from above!?

The Red Wolf has been blown off!!

……

What has just happened? Didn't they just easily defeat a C-Rank monster? Those small children? I feel like I have just seen something outrageous.

「「Defeated~!」」
「Ah, un. Good job~ Are you unhurt?」
「Un」
「Ok~ay」

The two children return back all smiles while dragging the Red Wolf behind them. Looking at the situation, this seems to be the usual occurrence.
I'm glad they are not hurt, but…… it was probably not just me who felt helpless just a while ago.

「Ah~, also. This time, Oniichan and the others will fight the monsters, why don't Allen and Elena take a day-off?」
「「? Understand~」」

That's right. That will save us the trouble.
No matter what, having small children fight with us here, we would be ashamed us the Knights.
Ah, Captain has approached Takumi-san all of sudden. He's probably curious why they are so strong.
He knew they were as strong as C-Rank adventurers? It's hard to believe, but Captain… you had such information……

「I told you I found these children malnourished in the Gaya Forest」
「I have heard that」

Please wait a moment.
I'm surprised that you went to the Gaya Forest before, but you have found them in there malnourished?
If they were thin at the time you have found them…… doesn't that mean they couldn't eat properly for an extended period of time?

「…… By that, you mean "the children have originally lived in this forest"…… right? 」

「Ah!!」
「That's right. Were they defeating the monsters, or were they running away from them? I don't know how they lived until now yet, but they have certainly survived in the forest for several days」
『……』

If children enter this forest, they will instantly become monster feed.
Yet they survived. Isn't that an outrageous? It's an unbelievable thing.

Furthermore, now Takumi-san used the rare space-time magic this time……
When I glanced at Captain he was startled too, so he probably didn't know.
The cause is because Captain didn't inform us before the appointed day, but it's painful for me to not being able to investigate what kind of person he really is.
Even though I say that, it's normal not to tell about your abilities to other people, and because he didn't stay in Shirin for too long, I don't know how much I would be able to find out.
Maa~ still, I would be at least to investigate his reputation.
Ah…… why wasn't I more interested when he entered the town for the first time, It's late, but I regret.

After that, it was consecutive surprises.

First, I was surprised by the children's movements and endurance. They were running here and there from the start and didn't fall behind us who were steadily advancing.
Normal children would hand their hands full by trying to keep up…… no, they wouldn't be able to keep up?

Moreover, their gathering ability and knowledge are magnificent.
Magical Power Grass, Demon Grass, Shui weed, Bellana…… they bring back plant and fruit one after another.
Not only the plant types, but they also seem to know their characteristics well, they never touched plants they shouldn't be touching.

In comparison our Captain!!

「Captain, if you touch it bare handed you will get rash. Please, think a bit about why those children didn't gather it themselves but called Takumi-san instead! Even though I told you to『Stop working by instinct』so many times!

Besides why do kids know, but a proper adult like you don't!!
———(Omitted)——— A person like you, every single time…… please learn a little bit!」

Use your brain a little!

I suddenly felt pulling while preaching Captain

「N?」

When I look at what's pulling me, aren't those the children pulling on my coat?

「What's the matter?」
「Here」
「For you」

The children present me something in a bag.
I receive the bag after crouching down to match the children's eyes. Isn't this a bag full of Iwami Moss?

Iwami Moss has been recently hard to obtain. Because of that, the inventory of the medicine it's used for (A wonder drug for itching feet) has been depleted. Moreover, this medicine is used daily by 1/3 of the Knights (I don't use it) so not having it is a severe matter.
With this much, we should have enough for the whole division. If they are giving it to me, I will gratefully receive it.

「You are giving me this?」
「Un」
「For you~」
「Thank you very much」
「「Un!」」

I'm not fond that much of children, but…… they are cute, aren't they?
I unconsciously ended up patting their heads after seeing their shy smiles.

Other various facts came to light. Like the most recent boom of Shirin, the new shaped bread was Takumi-san's idea…… like Takumi-san can instakill an Orc……
Wasn't I surprised enough in a day to cover several months?
Honestly, I'm exhausted from being surprised. And yet, there are still four more

days of the expedition to go. Can I hold until the end……

The next day was so calm it was creepy.
We did not encounter a monster for more than a half day.

Right at the moment I intended to end the investigation for today———

「It's a flare! We are rushing to join up!」

An emergency flare has been used. One of the two other teams is in need of help.
We have to hurry!

「What is that?」
「It's light from an emergency magic tool. We use it when encountering an unmanageable monster, when in need of assistance. One of the teams must be in trouble」

A magic tool used to call help. This is not used only be the Knights, but also by adventurers. It appears that Takumi-san doesn't know about it.
Which reminds me, he just joined the guild, right? Because of his strength, I completely forgot about him being a newcomer.
I lightly explain while on the way to the destination while being admired.
So he's no different from a newcomer in this regard……

「It would be better to hurry up?」
「Yes, that's right」

He confirms with Captain, but what are you planning to do?

「Then, we will go ahead」
「Yes?」

「Wind, gather around me and form a gale.《Accel》」

Takumi-san lifts the children up in his arms and starts chanting.
Then, a frightening amount of wind bursts out, and he speeds ahead at incredible speed.

「Haa!? What's with that speed!」
「…… Wind, magic…… is it?」

…… That should be intermediate speed spell if I'm not mistaken.

That should be it, but the speed is way above that…… You shouldn't be able to run this fast normally.
He really is an out of the standard person……

「It's weird, right!?」
「Yes, it's considerable difference compared to other people」
「…… That fellow is really bullshitting me」
「It seems like that. If it's Takumi-san, he will probably do something about it, but let's also hurry up」
「…… Right」

The other team is in a predicament as they used a flare.
Even if he is not able to solve it by himself, he should be able to gain us time to arrive.

I'm leaving it to you, Takumi-san.

idle talk 4

I'm Rady. 20 years old.
D-Rank adventurer, and a member of B-Rank party『Black Twin Sword』.

This time, we have come to the town of Shirin because of a subjugation request from the Knights.
It's my first time, but Gray-san and others received this request once before.
Normally, I wouldn't be able to enter Gaya Forest with my strength. Therefore, I was told to wait in Shirin.

However, I hate being left behind!

Although I'm not equal in ability to Gray-san and others, I will be able to rank up to C-Rank soon. Being a C-Rank at my age is quite fast.
Gray-san broke under my obstinant attitude. I had to promise that I will absolutely obey every order.
Of course, I agreed. We can take the request together like this!
On the day of the request.
Just before the departure, a man 3-4 years younger than me with two children arrived at the meeting place.

「Good morning, Wald-sama」

The man with the children went for greetings with the Captain of the expedition.

Wha! Are those guys perhaps also going to the Gaya Forest!?
Is that guy an idiot? Is he planning to go for a picnic?

It seems I wasn't the only one thinking that.
Gray-san probably thought so too even the Knights were looking at them with strict gazes.
However, I heard that the Captain forcibly selected them to participate.
After that, the Knights' attitudes softened. That Captain is well-respected, so I feel like it can't be helped since he decided on that.
But, is he actually taking them along? They will become a burden, right?
Maa, they seem to be in a different team than us, so I don't have to mind it.

Do your best not to die.
We have begun the Gaya Forest investigation.
We have encountered a Giant Boar and an Orc on the first day. However, Gray-san and the Knights defeated them without any difficulties.
I was also slightly helpful!

However, the state of the forest is apparently strange.
Usually, we should encounter a little more monsters. Moreover, the forest itself is strangely quiet.
I myself don't understand, but Gray-san says so, so it must be true.
The second day wasn't different from the first.

「BI, Bloody Wolf!!」

Is what I thought, but my thoughts abruptly collapsed.

「A pack in a place like this!? Randy! You concentrate on defending yourself!」
「Y, yes!」

B-Rank monster. We are assaulted by a pack of Bloody Wolves.
It's a troublesome opponent when alone, yet it's a whole pack. 1, 2, 3…… 7 in total.
On the other hand, we the five members of『Black Twin Sword』and 12 Knights of Shirin.
We need half of our men to defeat one of the Bloody Wolves.

We are at an overwhelming disadvantage.

One of the Knights immediately releases a red flare. It's to call for help.
Although the all of the teams have the same camping point today, it's unknown how far they are from us.
If we can't hold out until they come, we won't have a tomorrow.

We are forced into a defensive fight by the charging wolves.
With no chance to counterattack, we are slowly driven to a corner. I deflect the claws with the sword, but because I had not enough strength, my posture collapsed.

「Randy! Dodge!」
「Ku!!」

I roll on the ground at once after hearing Gray-san's voice, and successfully avoid the Bloody Wolf, but its claws grazed my arm.

「……」
「Randy, you alright?」
「Somehow……」

Although I answered like that, my legs don't move because of the fatigue.
I have to stand up! Is what I think, but my body doesn't listen to me.
Damn it! At this rate!!

When I was about to resign to die———

———*Don.*

「Wha! What!?」

!!!!!?
What have just happened!?
A sudden explosion and windstorm. Furthermore, a bad visibility because of a cloud of dust.
However, that cloud of dust immediately disappears.
When my visibility becomes clear, I see few of the Bloody Wolves staggering.

「Gyaun!」

Together with Bloody Wolf's cry, a man stuck a sword into it's back.
The man pulls up the sword from the wolf's back and mows down another Bloody Wolf in the striking distance.
It was killed in a single blow.

It's a person I recognize.
It's him! The man who brought the children.
He should be with a different team. That means help arrived? …… Is what I thought, but I don't see any other people around.

———*Dokon!*

「Wha!!!?」

This time, it happened right in front of my eyes.
Children fell from the sky and squashed Bloody Wolves on landing.

Haa!? It’s a lie, right!? They sunk into the ground!!

I don’t even have to confirm to figure out the wolves died.
What a thing. Four Bloody Wolves were defeated in an instant.

「Be careful, okay?」
「「Ye~s!」」
「O, oi!?」

The children face one of the remaining Bloody Wolves and start charging at it.
Gray-san leaks out a panicked voice.

Haa!? Wait a minute!
Are those two planning to fight a Bloody Wolf!?
That’s reckless! Why did you send them off!

The children approach the Bloody Wolf and begin to attack it.

「Ya!」「Hoi」
「Tou」「Ha!」

They are fighting with the Bloody Wolf on equal terms!?
This must be a joke, right!?
Even Gray-san would have troubles fighting a Bloody Wolf one on one. The children are able to fight such monster!?

Is this a dream? It’s a dream, right?

No, no, the Bloody Wolf is aching with pain. This is real.
But, this is a dreamlike even without a doubt.

「Horyaa~」
「Nsho!」

They get distance when the opponent attacks, and they shout when they attack.
The children are fighting effortlessly.

「「Here, here♪」」

Uwa~ they are even provoking it…… just what is going……

「Yoo!」「Hoi」

Ah, the Bloody Wolf’s posture crumbled.

「「Tou!」」
「Gyaun!」

The two didn’t miss the opportunity and kick the wolf with all their might.
The Bloody Wolf wasn’t able to endure the kicks and got blown away.

「「Ah」」

Ah……

The Bloody Wolf, the kids sent flying crashes into the Bloody Wolf the guardian-like man is fighting.
The two wolves collide and roll on the ground.

The man looks startled this way, but seeing the children his face shows consent.
He then approaches the wolf and stabs it with his sword.

He finished it, right?
That means, these guys… everything…… they defeated everything, right……

「Oi! You alright!?」

Ah…… a knight of other team has arrived. It’s already over, though……
…… Ah, un. Rather, we were saved……

It can’t be helped that I needed a little more time to return to reality after witnessing something so shocking, right?